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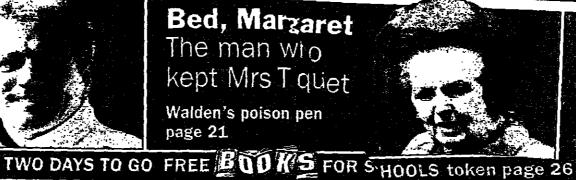
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England v **Hungary** Keegan's second test Full report, page 52



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Times poll shows Tory leader's poor image

Hague fights to save his political life

By PHILIP WEBSTER, ROLAND WATSON, ANDREW PIERCE AND PETER RIDDELL

WILLIAM HAGUE battled for his political life last night by delivering pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance.

Struggling to contain the crisis that has hit his leadership and confronted by a MORI poll showing support for the party and its leader were slipping still further, Mr Hague faced all of his MPs and promised to consult them more.

And he moved again Ito appease the Right and silence rumblings about his position in a speech last night when he denied that his efforts to improve the party's image on health and education meant that was abandoning Baroness Thatcher -- "one of its truly great leaders" -- or the free market - "its

great source of inspiration". But he refused to retreat from his attempt to kill the notion that the Tories layour the privatisation of the health and education services, emphasising the limits to private sector solutions to their problems.

The appearance before the 1922 Committee was a gamble and he finally decided to go ahead with it only an hour before the meeting started - his Shadow Cabinet having closed ranks behind him.

He delivered a short speech, conceding that the events of the past eight days could have been better handled and promising to listen to them more. According to his aides, he received the biggest cheer when he told them that their purpose was to return to power and and "not to have theological arguments about every point of policy".

He declared that despite the "wor-

ries, criticisms and misapprehensions" that he had encountered, he would not be deterred from making his commitment to the public services plain. "I will go through any number of arguments, take on anyone in debate, endure any criticism. do whatever it takes to get across this position on health and education that is true to the instincts and principles of our party."

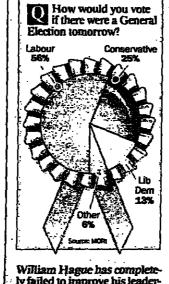
The appearance at the 1922 Committee came after Mr Hague had been warned by his Chief Whip James Arbuthnot that the parliamentary party was in a state of revolt. Senior backbenchers had said that feeling was running so high against the strategy unleashed by Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, that they would have little difficulty collecting the 24 signatures needed to trigger a vote of confidence in Mr Hague's leadership.

At the backbenchers' meeting, Mr Hague gave the strong avowal of support for Margaret Thatcher that he was to repeat later at a London fund-raising dinner. He declared that he had joined,

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ly failed to improve his leadership_image — particularly among Tories, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, the latest MORI poll for The Times shows. Mr Hague's personal rating has dropped and among Tories it now stands at minus 26, which means that twice as many disapprove of his leadership as



"Let me through, I'm a Conservative"

the Conservative Party because of Margaret Thatcher and was proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her election victory. He had always believed passionately that the free market was essential to ensuring freedom, prosperity and personal responsibility. But it was not the policy of the Thatcher Government to extend the free market to every aspect of national life.

"If the criticism is that we are turning our backs on Margaret Thatcher and the free markets, I say that we will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will al-

ways be champions of the free market. But we also believe, as previous Con-servative governments have, that schools and hospitals paid for by all taxpayers should be available to every-

one in the country."

Mr Hague's critics on the backbenches were in full cry, complaining at the muddle in the party's message and the desperately poor timing of Mr Lilley's attempt to change public per-ceptions of the party. Mr Lilley himself came in for huge criticism from senior backbenchers, many saying that he was out of touch and complain-

ing about the slow pace and lack of imagination in his policy review.

The Shadow Cabinet has voiced deep unhappiness at the way the Lilley plan was executed and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, has privately distanced himself from the Lilley creech.

Lilley speech.

Mr Maude, a member of the Conservative Central Office strategy group which backed the campaign to try to change the Tories image on the alth service, complained directly to Mr Hague about the failed execution of the plan.

Francis is loyal and keeps his views private. But there is no doubt he was deeply unhappy with the spin which was put on the speech by Central Office, one aide said. "The last thing he wanted for us was to apologise for something we had not done wrong. There is a growing consensus that the Lilley speech was badly handled, not just in the lack of consultation, but in the way it was written. It was careless, not least in what it omitted. Francis shares the views of most people in the party that this went badly wrong.We do have to slay the dragon over the NHS. But not the way Lilley chose to

The Maude camp is still dinging to the hope the row will still help the Tories on the doorstep by reinforcing the view that the they will defend the

A mood of deep despondency per-vaded party headquarters yesterday. An inquest was held at the early morning strategy meeting over the revela-tions in The Times about the sacking of Michael Simmonds, the director of research and marketing, who was accused of leaking the first draft of Mr Lilley's speech, which went much further in denouncing Thatcherite ideology.

Mr Arbuthnot was livid that his description of the crisis gripping the par-liamentary party had been leaked to The Times and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, made an implicit threat that anyone caught talking out of turn to the press would be sacked on the spot.

Blame Basildon, page 14 Leading article, page 23

Thatcher's 'anecdotage'

A SAD picture of the retired Marga-ret Thatcher, including allegations that she drank too much, is painted by the former Conservative minister George Walden today.

In his memoirs, being serialised in The Times, Mr Walden says that "the most vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister in decades" had reached a "premature anecdotage". He says that Margaret Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well.

She was also drinking too much. In

the old days she would put down a

Derek Laud: first in the field

evening after her umpteen-hour day: now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There was no arguing with her anymore; in fact it was impossible to talk to her."

Mr Walden adds: "The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronunciamento that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she did not know she was doing it."

The Walden memoirs, page 21



'I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well

as perfect a person as

Jill'

meaning and

The fiance of Jill Dando spoke of his incomprehension and grief yesterday as the search for her killer made slow progress.

Alan Farthing who was planning to marry the television presenter later this year. said that he could think of no reason for the murder of such a "beautiful, caring and wellmeaning" person.

The investigation has been hampered by a delay in issuing pictures of the suspect. Scotland Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who got a good enough view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shoot ing. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit

Miss Dando had recently sold her house, in Fulham. west London, it emerged, and planned to move in with Mr Farthing. The buyers spoke of their sadness last night.

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BE MAD TO PAY

twice as much

as you need to

for phone calls.

Farthing speaks, page 5 Dr Stuttaford, page 20 Mick Hume, page 22 Radio, page 39

Belgrade riven as dissenter is sacked

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

VUK DRASKOVIC, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister

The move came a few days after he had publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government in Belgrade to stop lying about the country's deteriorating economy after weeks of Nato bombing.

Nato said that the dismissal was a sign of Mr Milosevic's increasing isolation and "the first visible fracture" in the Yugoslav leadership. Mr Draskovic had paid the price of speaking the truth, a Nato official said.

Mr Draskovic said yesterday: "I don't know what precipitated my removal. I haven't spoken to Milosevic." Nato admitted yesterday that a laserguided bomb had "gone astray" over the town of Surdulica in southern Serbia, hitting a residential area instead of

a military barracks. The Yugoslav authorities said that up to 20 civilians had

been killed, including six children. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that he regretted the civilian deaths. Later Tony Blair repeated to the Commons that Nato took every possible precaution to avoid civilian

casualties As Nato's air campaign went into its

sixth week, efforts to find a peace settlement continued, with more meetings in Moscow. However, Strobe Talbott, the American Deputy Secretary of State, on a visit to Berlin after going to Moscow, said that there was nothing to indicate that Mr Milosevic was closer to accepting Nato's five demands.

In Berlin, Mr Talbott met Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, before he flew to Moscow where he will see President Yeltsin to-

INSIDE Nato's regret. Voice of dissent.

Letters. day. As part of an intensification of diplomatic efforts to end the Kosovo crisis,

fence Minister, was also in Moscow yesterday, meeting Russian leaders. He said yesterday: "There are elements that increase the hope of a political solution slightly, though one should

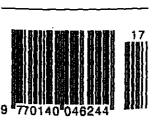
Rudolf Scharping, the German De-

not overrate them." However, Goran Matic, a senior Yugoslav official, was quoted in the New York Times as saying that the basic outline of an agreement on Kosovo could

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SHOULD BEEN IN CONTRACTOR STREET FIRST TELEVISION THAT AND IN STREETS BETS



be "firmed up" this week. whisky soda or two late in the Fox-hunting black joins the masters

By TIM REID

FOR one of the nation's most conservative, white, male-dominated pursuits, it is almost a revolution. Britain has just got its first black master of foxhounds.

Derek Laud, 39. a London venture capitalist, has been elected joint master of the prestigious, 210-year-old New Forest Foxhounds, a post he takes up on May 1. "I don't think the hunt are conscious of

the colour of my skin," Mr Laud told The Times last night. "But we don't want to put distance between us and anyone that wants to participate in this sport. It doesn't matter if they are a woman or a

man, gay or straight."

John Moore, chairman of the hunt club. said: "His colour has nothing to do with it. He's just a bloody nice bloke. He's a good rider, popular, and kind to other members of the hunt.

maica, was once challenged on his horse by an anti-hunt saboteur on the grounds that 100 years ago similar people would have been hunting him. "Yes," he countered, "but 200 years ago I would have been eating them." Mr Laud came to prominence in the

early 1990s as the first - and to date only - black member of the right-wing Mon-

LET us be fair to Charlotte Atkins: Prime Minister's Questions always did rollercoaster between the sublime and the ridiculous.

There is nothing new in the sight of MPs clutching their stomachs as the House makes a sickening lurch from a humanitarian catastrophe in Albania to an outbreak of cat flu in Bolton. Members may raise what they please: and do. The result is an eclectic mix of domestic bees in local bonnets, with questions on the destiny of mankind.

So for Ms Atkins it was more bad luck than bad judgment that her question on the status of chess immediately followed an impassioned out-burst from the Prime Minister on the horrors of Kosovo.

those that followed, had been delivered to a resolute House. I reported last week that the Commons barometer had moved to "unsettled". Yesterday it inched back towards a stable high pressure. William Hague (poor thing) sounded rather bleak - just

go through the motions Noty unexpected moved off-ssage. But Ms Atkins temarily lost the plot.

TiLabour MP for Staffordere Moorlands is neither obsessive nor a fool. That Balkan exchange, like And ere is no reason why she siuld not raise, at this higher of levels, the grievance i chess players that their the is not recognised as a sport

Nor could she choose her moment when to speak: MPs who want to intervene have to



outset, to catch the Chair's attention. Ms Atkins did. Disaster! She succeeded too early: immediately after Mr Hague had been crossquestioning Tony Blair about the conflict in the Balkans. Mr Blair had worked himself into particular outrage at

Serbian atrocities. Steam was

still coming from his ears.

This was not the mony for chess. But, as Miss Bothroyd called her name. /was too late for Ms Atkins concoct a new question the rape of Albania She ploughed through ri protest against the per

chess players. MPs brows buttering and ple began

benchers looked uncomfortaie. After too long. Ms Atkins sat down: a loyal new-Labour-ite who had asked a fair question, but with unlucky timing.

It was instructive to note the ruthlessness with which Mr Blair let her swing. The Labour Whips' Office now tries to select who will intervene, and to orchestrate questions, so this sketch would be surprised if she had given no notice of what she hoped to raise — but it is possible.

The effect was to play to the mood of the House, joining In any event, whether or

wretched.

that he was looking in vain

along his front bench for

help. Everyone langhed:

laughed with him, and at Ms

Atkins, who looked a bit

kins's Question. Most jourchose to make light of it. In nalists will admire the skill mock-exasperation he protested — in effect — that prime and light touch with which Mr Blair extracted himself ministers do get rogue cocounscathed from a potentially nuts like this thrown at them. awkward exchange. and simply have to duck. Rather wittily he remarked

But this sketchwriter, who has been a backbencher, felt for Ms Atkins. Somewhere in her half-consciousness a tiny arrow has now lodged. In a phrase of Thornton Wilder's, wrapped in layers of forgiveness and understanding, it

sank into her beart".

Relaunch of Hague fails with voters

SUPPORT for William Hague has dropped sharply among Tory supporters, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times. This is a further blow to Mr Hague as he tries to assert his authority.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the Tories have fallen even further behind Labour ahead of the local, Scottish and Welsh elections next Thursday. Moreover, Mr Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image, particularly among Tory supporters.

Labour is now at the top end of its post-election range at 56 per cent, up two points since late March, while the Tories have fallen back two points over the month to 25 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 13 per cent.

Mr Hague's personal rating has deteriorated despite the attempts to relaunch his image. and may reflect the initial impact of the Tory row over Peter Lilley's speech last week on public spending. His approval rating, measuring those satisfied less dissatisfied with his performance as party leader. has fallen from minus 26 to minus 31 points, the lowest level since last September.

Even more worrying for Mr

Poll shows that

even many

Tories prefer Blair, writes

Peter Riddell Hague is that his rating among Tory supporters is almost as bad. This figure has fluctuated sharply in recent months, but, by a margin of nearly two-to-one (56 to 30 per cent), Tory supporters are dis-

Over the last few months. his approval rating among To-ries has been minus 15, minus 4, minus 27, minus 3 and, now, minus 26 points.

satisfied rather than satisfied

with Mr Hague's perform-

MORI this month asked a series of questions about the image of the party leaders. On each of the 14 measures. Mr Hague not only lags well be-hind Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, but also shows no sign of improvement compared with when he became Tory leader nearly two years ago. For instance Mr Hague's rating as a capable leader has remained stuck at 10 per cent since autumn 1997, compared

with 51 per cent who rate Mr Blair as capable. Similarly, an unchanged nine per cent believe Mr Hague understands world problems, against 38 per cent who believe Mr Blair

does.

Moreover, on nine of the 14 measures. Tory supporters rate Mr Blair more highly than their own leader. Mr Hague. For instance, 39 per cent of Tories regard Mr Blair as a capable leader, but only 17 per cent have the same view of Mr Hague. The contrast, among Tory supporters, is 21 to 5 per cent between the leaders on being good in a crisis, and 33 to 7 per cent on having a lot of personality. By contrast, Mr Blair's rat-

ing remains very strong and has probably been helped by his handling of Kosovo. His rating, satisfied less dissatisfied, has risen from plus 32 to plus 35 points in the past month, to the highest level since August 1998. ☐ MORI interviewed a repre-

sentative quota sample of 1966 adults at 162 sampling points across Britain on April 23 to 26. Voting intention fig-ures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), who are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).



The Prince of Wales is shown canteen food yesterday at a hostel for the homeless in Victoria. London. As part of the Prince's backing for initiatives involving the homeless. tailored suits are to he given to those exclude those who would vote (9 per cent), who are ecided (7 per cent) or who sed to say (1 per cent).

Leading article, page 23 tailored suits are to he given to those attending jobantus are to he given to he given to those attending jobantus are to he given to he give

Prince's makeover on homeless

hostels and day centres. Most of the 70 managing directors and chief executives who took part promised immediate help. David Fellowes. deputy managing director of Aquascutum, said he would donate suits and other clothing to the Crisis charity for homeless people attending job interviews. Andrew Robertson, managing di-

rector of Abbott Meade Vickers advertising agency, said that his company's contribution would be to buy or build a "halfway house" with accommodation for up to ten. He said the property, to be called The Big House, will help people moving to their own flats to get used to having a home again. Business Action on Homelessness is a joint venture between the Prince's charity, Business in the Community, and the housing charity Crash, and is chaired by John Studzinski, managing director of the investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

At a meeting of 50 senior business leaders in St James's Palace, London. yesterday, Mr Studzinski said that re-lieving homelessness was one of the most tangible ways in which organisations could "play the good shepherd".

LAURA ASHLEY

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Food giant to phase out GM ingredients

BY NICK NUITALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

NESTLÉ, one of Britain's biggest food manufacturers, last night announced plans to phase out genetically modified ingredients, including flours, oils and additives, from its British product range.

The company's move comes a day after Unilever, the food manufacturing giant, an-nounced its intention to remove genetically modified organisms from its products in Britain. Nestlé said that its decision came after a sharp fall in consumer confidence. Nestlé, which owns British

companies in-cluding Rown-tree, Nescafé, Carnation Milk and Cross & Blackwell, said that it had al-

ready reformulated recipes or phased out material from soya and maize. "We will engene-altered crops from many products.

A spokeswoman said they now had only three products labelled as containing genetically modifed ingredients all Cross & Blackwell sandwiches. These are to have their gene-altered ingredients re-

She added that the company was now tackling the tougher issue of sourcing soya and soya derivatives, such as oils. flours and lecithin used in chocolate, from conventionally grown crops. The main sources are Brazil and Canada. But campaigners believe that, given the market muscle of Nestlé, Unilever and supermarkets such as Sainsbury, growers in the United States may now look to switch back to traditional soya varities.

"For a transitional period, some Nestlé UK products may continue to contain low levels of highly refined ingredients which, while they may have come from GM crops, have been purified to such an extent that the finished product no longer contains any GM material." the company said.

But it added

in a statement that its new policy was to source even these refined ingredients from conventional varieties of

deavour to purchase ingredients from non-GM sources." Nestlécould not put a date on when all its 250 lines would be sourced from conventional crops, but it is working with suppliers to achieve that as

soon as possible. Lord Melchett, speaking for Greenpeace, said that those who still supported GM crops and foods were driven by "religious zeal" rather than commonsense, adding: "If Tony Blair and Jack Cunningham felt exposed after Unilever's announcement, they must be feeling positively silly now,"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car chase pair face 16 fresh charges

Two men arrested after a high-speed car chase in which shots were fired and passers-by wounded faced 16 new charges of attempted murder when they reappeared before magistrates in Manchester yesterday.

Yakub Olatunde Adetoro, 29, of no fixed address, now faces a total of 23 charges of attempting to murder police and members of the public during the incident. which ended in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, last Friday, Andrew Dennis, 23, of Medlock Road. Failsworth, Oldham, faces a total of 22 attempted murder charges. They were also charged with kidnapping a 27-year-old married woman in Bolton. No

MP 'entitled to return'

Fiona Jones, the disqualified Labour MP whose conviction for electoral fraud was quashed on appeal, should be allowed to resume her seat in the interests of natural justice and those who voted for her, the High Court was told. "Where an MP... is convicted at first instance but succeeds on appeal, their incapacity to sit as an MP is removed," said Philip Sales, for the Attorney-General. The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

Call to snub Sinn Fein

The bipartisan consensus on Northern Ireland was further fractured when the Tories called for the establishment of an executive without Sinn Fein (Martin Fletcher writes). The Government rejected a demand by Andrew Mackay, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, that Sinn Fein should join only when the IRA had disarmed. Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, said that would remove "the one bit of leverage I have".

Health cases checked

The records of 800 patients of an ear, nose and throat consultant are to be reviewed after an inquiry into his competence (Simon de Bruxelles writes). Colleagues had expressed concern about the work of Julian Upton, 62, who retired from Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, Somerset, last month on health grounds. Consultants called in to review 21 of his cases recommended that the treatment of another 790 patients should be looked at

Trade war looms over ban on US beef

By Carl Mortished, Charles Bremner and Ben Macintyre

EUROPE is heading for a new trade war with the United States after a committee of veterinary scientists in Brussels decided to ban all imports of US beef into Europe by June 15 unless the meat is proved to be free of artificial hormones.

The ban caused anger among US trade officials who suggested it belied a "tit-fortat" attitude on the part of the EU. Washington is already threatening action over an existing European ban on imports of hormone-treated beef which the World

Trade Organisation has declared illegal. The decision to ban all beef originating from the US will affect some £12 million US exports, including £3.8 million of US beef sold to Britain. Tests by European scientists on beef sold as hormone-free revealed that 12 per cent of the samples contained residues of artifical growth hormones, alleged to be carcinogens.

The US rejects the claims of health risk and has published a list of \$900 million worth of European exports, including Rocquefort, fole gras and motorcycles,

which will be liable to 100 per cent duties if Brussels fails to lift its ban by May 13. Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said Europe was acting to proped consumer health and was ready to work with US authorities to resolve the problem. However, Britain voted against the move when it was initiated yesterday by the EUs standing veterinary committee

A British spokeswoman said: We con sider the EU move to be disproportion ate. There is clearly a problem with US control measures and we expect them to be addressed as soon as possible. Marine massac

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Sger gam. Tycoon 'hired killer in custody fight' Tycoon 'hired killer in custody fight'

Court told hitman was paid £20,000 to murder

wife, reports

Richard Duce

A MILLIONAIRE paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday.

made a fortune from his Aqualisa shower company, was said to have embarked on a "calculated and wicked" plot to have Diana Goldsmith killed because he wanted care of their son and daughter. The 44-vear-old woman - she took his name although they never married - had been abducted from her home by two men in January 1995 and murdered soon afterwards. Her body was not found for two years.

when it was discovered buried in the back garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London. Andrew Patience, QC, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Goldsmith, 62, refused to accept the ruling by a High Court judge that custody of his son, aged seven, and 12-yearold daughter should remain with their mother when the couple separated after 12 vears. "He never came to terms with it. Derek Goldsmith's determination to have these children under his care and control has led him ultimately to the dock where he

now stands trial." Mr Patience said: "The defendant badly wanted the care and control of his children. That desire was thwarted by the decision of the High Court which he could not accept. It is for that reason he entered into a calculated and wicked plan to get the children back, although it meant they would be deprived of their mother for

He said the prosecution did not claim that Mr Goldsmith had killed Diana Goldsmith himself. "He was careful to keep his distance. Rather we say that by giving final instructions . . . he counselled and procured her death."
Mr Patience said the mur-

der plot took shape after Mr Goldsmith confided in Michael Fitzpatrick, his sonin-law by a previous marriage, who he had helped to set up in a scrap metal business in



Diana being an unfit mother and how he would get his children back some day. It was like an obsession with him," Mr Patience said.

Their friendship had taken a darker and "sinister" twist when Mr Goldsmith had asked Fitzpatrick if he knew of "anyone who could get rid of Diana, that is to say kill her". Fitzpatrick, who has admit-

ted conspiracy to murder, is a key prosecution witness. It was he who put Mr Goldsmith in touch with the hit-man, Ian Colligan. Mr Pa-tience said that under instructions from Mr Goldsmith, Colligan and Fitzpatrick burgled Mrs Goldsmith's home in Sevenoaks, Kent, to copy a set of her keys. The plan had been to return later and lie in wait for

Colligan had reported back to Fitzpatrick that Mr Goldhad handed him smith

A21 road to Hastings. But by now, Mr Patience said, Fiz-patrick had got cold feet and urged Colligan "not to do the job and keep the money".

Instead, Colligan had re-

cruited his friend Michael Danaher with the offer of £1.500, and the two men had let themselves in to Mrs Goldsmith's house. She had returned home having dropped off her son at his school.

Mr Patience told the jury: "Colligan overpowered her. She was assured no harm would come to her and she was given a cup of coffee and a cigarette to calm her down. Her hands were secured with plastic ties." Mrs Goldsmith had then been driven away in her own Volvo car, which had later been found ahandoned at the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex. She was never seen alive again.

Mr Patience said that Colli-

he would not dispose of the

body unless he was paid a fur-ther £20,000 by Mr Gold-smith. The millionaire had handed over a further £6,000. In the meantime, Fitzpatrick had asked a friend if he could bury 50 kilos of cannabis in his back garden. While the friend was out, Fitzpatrick had

buried the body. Mr Patience said that days before he was arrested last year, Mr Goldsmith, who by now had custody of his children, had ordered a book near his home in Edenbridge, Kent, entitled When Father Kills Mother - guiding children through truama and grief.
Danaher admitted a kidnap-

ping charge in June 1996 and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court. Colligan committed suicide while on remand in prison. Mr Goldsmith denies conspiring to murder his wife.



Sevenoaks, below, on the orders of her partner Derek Goldsmith, right, who lived in Edenbridge, above, and was put in touch with the hitman by Michael Fitzpatrick, below





Marines rejected school massacre mastermind

Police question four friends of

killers, reports Giles Whittell

ERIC HARRIS, who masterminded the school shooting in Colorado in which 15 people died last week, was taking medication for a psychiatric condition and had been rejected by the US Marines five According to military sourc-

es. Harris had done well in an early interview for the Marines but had been turned down on medical grounds. The system worked," a Marine Corps spokesman said. But the young man it weeded out then went on a rampage, the impact of which is still being felt more than a week later. As crowds packed two more funerals for victims of Harris and his partner. Dylan Klebold, police confirmed that three more young men and a woman could still

become suspects. The men being questioned, all with links to the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia, have been named as Matthew Christianson. Matt Akard and Jim Branetti. They were spotted near the school wearing combat fa-tigues and black shirts during the shootings, taken into custo-

dy and released. One told the Rocky Mountain News that they had been watching because they were "just three punks with a lot of curiosity". Police suspect they may have known about the massacre in advance because. as Sheriff John Stone noted on Tuesday: "They said they heard it on the radio ... but it

wasn't on the radio then." The woman helping detectives, 18-year-old Robyn Anderson, was Klebold's girlfriend. She went to the school prom with him three days before the killings and is known to have bought the two shotguns used by him and Harris. Questioned and released on Tuesday, she was still co-operating

with police yesterday. A national debate on who to blame for the carnage may find the answer in the courts. Geof-



Anderson: bought two guns used in the killings

frey Feiger, a nationally-known defence lawyer who made his name representing Dr Jack Kervorkian, the advocate of assisted suicide, has been approached twice by the family of the sole black victim, Isaiah Shoels. His father is considering a lawsuit because police and school officicals allegedly ignored repeated warnings about threats of violence from Harris and Klebold, and on the ground that their parents ignored clear signs of an arms build-up in their own homes. "How would they not know they had bomb factories in their houses?" Michael Schwartz, Mr Fieger's law partner, asked as police raised the number of bombs found at

the school to 51.

New information released on Tuesday hinted for the first time that Harris and Klebold may have considered suicide only as a last resort. Harris's diary contained mention of escaping to Mexico. Sheriff Stone said. Detectives also believe the gunmen made three attempts to flee the building be-

fore shooting themselves. As the investigation contin-ued, President Clinton made an impassioned plea for new gun control measures. He asked "everybody who is waiting for the next deer season in my home state to think about this in terms of what our reasonable obligations to the larger community of America are".

The Duchess of York joined mourners in Littleton, saying that it reminded her of Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Patched-up Verve split again

By ALEX O'CONNELL

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in world — apart from us". announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their

The band, which slimmed down from five to a quartet when the guitarist Nick McCabe left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the and did not come without a great deal

of distress to me personally. "I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it

The working-class boys from Wigan notched up hits including Bitter Sweet



The five members of The Verve before they parted company

Symphony and their first No 1, The

Drugs Don't Work. This is not the first time the band has split. In 1995 McCabe and Ashcroft fell out over the singer's bedonistic lifestyle and McCabe did not speak to any of

known as "Mad Richard" at the time, because of his appetite for drugs, reportedly begged McCabe to come back. Later he wrote The Drugs Don't Work about the circumstances surrounding the split. But although Me-Cabe was reported to have patched up differences with the group, he did not perform or record with them again.

In January Asheroft held a party at his mansion in Gloucestershire without inviting the other hand members. The previous month Asheroft and Mehad been snubbed when they found out through friends about the

wedding of the guitarist Simon Tong. Recently it emerged that Ashcroft had been recording in a South London studio, followed by rumours of a solo



Office may spark new battle of Newbury

the fiercest environmental battles of recent years was yesterday facing another upheav-al after Vodafone gained approval to build its world headquarters on a green site.

Campaigners who failed to prevent Newbury getting its controversial bypass have said they will return to the fray against the telecommunica-

They denounced Vodafone after the company threatened to relocate its 3,500-strong workforce if the plan was rejected. In the end, West Berkshire Council rejected advice from planning officers that the headquarters would generate demand for thousands more houses and approved the plans early yesterday after a 64-hour debate.

£60 million Vodafone's headquarters will cover 30 acres north of the town centre. Within five years it will employ staff from 36 of the 57 buildings which the company currently uses across the Berkshire market town.

Friends of the Earth accused the company of holding a gun to the council's head. Adrian Foster-Fletcher, a spokesman. said: "For a company that makes £3 million per day, they have behaved like an Arthur Daley backstreet garage. The council will be powerless to stop 3.000 houses being dumped in the area."

However, as with the controversial bypass, the people of Newbury seem largely in favour of Vodafone's scheme. An

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Environmentalists threaten a siege over approval for Vodafone centre, writes Helen Johnstone

VODAFONE OFFICES IN NEWBURY

independent survey showed that of 1,559 people asked, only 96 were against.

The company, which has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to local charities since moving to Newbury in 1983, was sensitive to the charge it might be buying votes. At the eleventh hour, it rejected a council demand that it donate £5 million to a housing association.

The company said yesterday: "Vodafone saw it as buying the application. The council would have had the problem anyway. We confirmed in a letter early yesterday that if the condition remained we would pull out"

The council voted by 23 to 22, with one abstention, to drop the condition. Councillors then went on to vote by 25 to 18 in favour of the headquarters, along with around 2,000 parking spaces on former agri-cultural land.

Jim Sherry, the council's head of planning and transport strategy, gave a warning that more green sites were now under threat. "We have most of the new houses will have to go on greenfield sites." Planners had said that up

3,900 new jobs could be created. Their report recommending refusal had said that this would result in a significant increase in commuting to the town and further pressure on

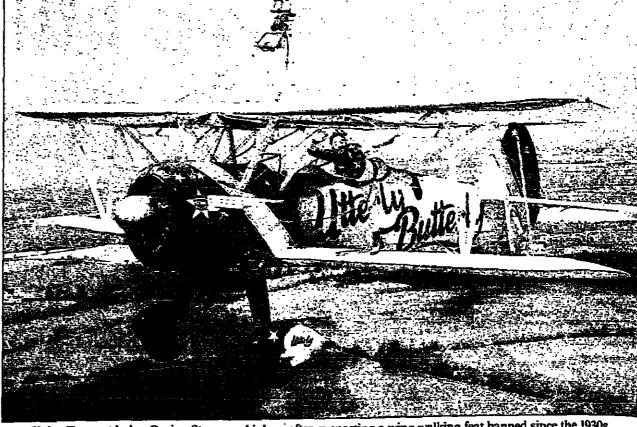
Friends of the Earth, which argued that Vodafone could move 20 miles down the M4 to Reading, where houses were already available and a bus service planned, is calling for a public inquiry.

Mr. Foster-Fletcher said:

"Planning officers and the planning committee recommended refusal. About 300 people who demonstrated last week in favour of the proposals were Vodafone employees. Pressure must be put on the council to take a proper view of this application."

Mike Caldwell, the Vodafone spokesman, said that staying in Newbury would prevent workers clocking up 30 million extra road miles a year. "If we had moved to Reading, a vast majority of our staff would have stayed living in the Newbury area and used their cars to drive to work. Residents yesterday ex-pressed delight. Vodasone signs are already everywhere you look, so it will be good to see the bulk of them moving out of the town," said Frank Dodwell, a retired publisher.

Sue Bruce, a secretary, said: The move will be gradual. over three to five years."



Helen Tempest in her Boeing Stearman biplane after re-enacting a wing-walking feat banned since the 1930s

Walker with a wing and a prayer

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT MIGHT play havoc with a girl's hairdo, but that was the least of Helen Tempest's worries yesterday as she performed a wing-walking stunt so danger-ous it has been banned since the 1930s.

As her Boeing Stearman biplane roared 100ft above a Gloucestershire airfield, the 33-year-old professional dare-devil elimbed out of the cockpit and on to the lower wing. Battered by the 100mph slipstream, she stepped gingerly from spar to spar, knowing that one false step and her foot would go straight through the thin fabric skin. If that happened, not even the safety harness she wears would have been able to stop her



or the 50-year-old plane plummeting to the ground.

After spending ten minutes walking to the middle of the 33ft-long wing and back again, she said: "That was truly

Partridge obnoxious but

Warning:

this man

is no role

model

By CAROL MIDGLEY

MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC was forced to spell

out yesterday that Alan Par-

tridge, the obnoxious, offensive, homophobic, sexist fic-tional chat show host, was not a suitable role model for

Executives published a lengthy explanation distanc-

ing themselves from the behaviour of the star of the

BBC2 comedy series I'm Alan Partridge after being reprimanded by broadcasting watchdogs.
The Broadcasting Stand-

ards Commission upheld

complaints that a repeat epi-

sode of the show, starring the

comedian Steve Coogan as a fading chat-show host, was of-

Partridge mocked a character who had undergone an op-

cration to remove his vocal cords and spoke using an elec-

tronic gadget. He asked the man why he spoke so strange-ly and told him he sounded

"like the young girl in The

After being told by the com-mission that humour at the

expense of someone who had

undergone a laryngectomy exceeded acceptable bounda-

ries, the BBC said that it had

had no intention to ridicule

"The central character in

the series was a fading media

star whose most distinctive

feature was his crass insensi-

tivity." it said in its submis-

sion to the commission. "He

unashamedly alienated or of-

fended most of the people he

met, while remaining una-

ware that he was the object of

the humour rather than those

on the receiving end of his

The spokesman explained that the behaviour of Partridge — who is reduced in

his latest series to presenting the 4.30am show on Radio

Norwich and living in a Trav-

el Tavern — had put his ca-reer and personal life on a

The BBC added that he was "clearly not intended to be a role model" and "his

boorish and prejudiced be-haviour should be seen in

"remorseless slide".

that light".

tasteless jokes."

Exorcist*

sufferers.

fensive to the disabled.

viewers.

amazing. It made me feel like Superwoman. When you step out you are over-whelmed by the force of the air behind the propeller. You can barely breathe She added that it was "incredible fun".

Miss Tempest, who has been wingwalking since the age of 15, is a member of the Utterly Butterly Barnstormers, who perform at airshows across Europe and are the first team to be granted permission to perform the stunt since wingwalking was banned by the Civil Avia-tion Authority in 1933 because of the large number of fatalities.

Wing-walking began in the 1920s when World War One pilots tried to find ways of earning a living after returning to civilian life.

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Aid for disabled on the menu By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

WAITERS will be required to display units that are accessiread out menus to people with visual impairments under government guidelines issued this

Shopkeepers will have to open their door for customers who cannot easily manage it themselves, and owners of small shops who cannot afford to build a ramp or widen door-

customers who use wheelchairs on the pavement. The advice is part of the Disability Discrimination Act. which comes into force on Ocantee disabled people the right of access to all goods and serv-

ways will be required to serve

ices on the high street. The guidance is designed to placate owners of small businesses who are concerned that the new legislation will in-volve building alterations to their premises and other costly adjustments to the way they

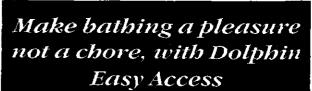
work. Instead of building new

ble to wheelchair users or people with restricted movement, storekeepers will be advised to retrieve items from inaccessi-

Businesses that cannot afford to install an induction loop or hire a sign language interpreter will be required to write down information for people who have hearing impairments.

Similarly, solicitors and providers of other professional services will be able to produce documents on tape or in al impairments, instead of having to have them printed in Braille.

Announcing the regulations in the Commons, Margaret Hodge, minister for disabled people, said she hoped the new legislation would lead to "a high street revolution" in the way that services are deliv-





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Who would want to kill my gentle Jill?'

Fiancé urges those with suspicions to tell police, writes Michael Harvey

THE fiance of the murdered television presenter Jill Dando spoke yesterday of his grief and incomprehension at her death. Alan Farthing said: "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning and as perfect a person as Jill.

Mr Farthing, 35, a consultant gynaecologist at a West London hospital, was due to marry Miss Dando in September. They had been seeing each other since meeting on a blind date last year.

in an emotional interview organised by the police he said: "I am coping in the same way as anybody else would cope in these circumstances. I am devastated. Everybody around me is devastated. everybody is trying to offer as much support as they possibly

Mr Farthing, who was told of his fiancee's death while at work at St Mary's Hospital. Paddington, added: "I cannot helieve what has happened. I cannot understand what has happened. I cannot think for one moment what could go through someone's mind when they do such a thing to such a beautiful, caring and well-meaning person such as



Jill Dando and Alan Farthing together last Christmas

on finding her killer: "Some-body has planned this . . . and somebody around that person will have noticed a change in behaviour. I would appeal to anyone who is suspicious not to think about it, but to just go ahead and give the police the information they have. If the information is not relevant. then let the police officers

Mr Farthing was speaking at Kensington police station. where the murder investigation is being co-ordinated. He said that Miss Dando, 37, had ill."
not spoken of any serious fears
His thoughts were focused about her celebrity status or sions when she had to go in to expressed their condolences.

her role presenting Crime-watch UK. He added: "I have

who knows Jill, desperately racking the backs of our minds to see if we can come up with a particular reason. It is not something that was a topic of conversation. She never really felt that there was any particular danger to her as far as I'm aware.' He said that she had con-

spent hours, as has everybody

tacted Crimewatch before she joined to see if anyone had been threatened, but was reassured. "It did not worry us.

the BBC car park at lam to drive herself home.

Mr Farthing said that he could see himself going back to work, but for the moment he was too busy helping the police. "My first emotions now are that, whatever happens and whatever arrests are made, it does not bring back Jill and that is desperately sad.

"Nevertheless, it helps me and Jill's family and it helps Jill's friends and colleagues to feel that we are doing everything we can to try and appre-hend whoever is responsible." Mr Farthing, his voice breaking, said that he had last

spoken to Miss Dando at 7.25am on Monday when she left his house in Chiswick. Detectives are still talking to family and friends, seeking Mr Farthing first heard that

there was something wrong when he had a pager message from her agent, who was try-ing to find out if rumours of her death were true. He had tried to contact police stations when a senior police officer whom he knew arrived to give him the news.

Talk of a public memorial was premature but he and Miss Dando's family wanted to thank all those who had



Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell at the Dando murder scene yesterday

Police grapple with mystery of gunman's motive

KOSOVO CONNECTION

Theory: Miss Dando was the victim of a Serb killer acting in revenge for the bombing last week of the Serbian television station in Belgrade.

Evidence: Last week she presented a television charity appeal for the victims of the Kosovo conflict. Two anonymous callers to the BBC and one to ITN have claimed that there is a Balkan link to the murder. Several Serb television workers were killed in the Nato bombing. which the British Government justified as an attack on "the ministry at lies in Milosevic's one-medium state". The murder of such a prominent BBC employee might be seen

Likelihood: Far-fetched theory but not ruled out by the

PERSONAL REVENGE

Theory: She was killed by someone who knew her either in her personal or professional life.

Evidence: An admirer could have become jealous after learning of her engagement to Alan Farthing, 35, a gynaecologist. Police are questioning all those close to her, including Dr Farthing. They have searched his townhouse in Chiswick, West London. They have also spoken to her former boyfriend, Simon Bassil, 33, a former game park warden who is now a computer analyst in Hampshire. She met him in January 1997 when she went was filming in South Africa. Women are more often killed by people known to them but police emphasise that either Dr Farthing nor any former boymend is a suspect.

Likelthood: Possible and being investigated.

OBSESSED FAN

Theory: She was killed by a stalker who was infatuated

Evidence: Miss Dando had expressed concern about her safety but not recently. As with all women television celebrities she attracted her lair share of tans and fanmail. Several websites were devoted to her. Last year she was bothered by an obsessive fan who was warned off by the BBC. Someone who believed himself to be in love with her could have been pushed over the edge by the news of her forthcoming marriage.

Likelihood: Possible and police are treating it seriously But people with obsessions very rarely kill the object of their infatuation. The shooting was also too clinical to suggest that the killer was an emotionally fortured fan.

CRIMEWATCH GRUDGE

Theory: A criminal brought to justice by the BBC1 programme Crimewatch sought revenge by hiring a

Evidence: Miss Dando co-presented the programme for four years. In that time it featured nearly 500 crimes and about a third were solved. Police are examining Crimewatch files to see which criminals have recently been released from jail. Few of the offences featured in the programme involved the sort of gangland crime likely to provoke a revenge killing. Nick Ross, her co-presenter, does not believe there is a Crimewatch connection.

Likelihood: Police consider it very unlikely. A professional hitler would not have worked without gloves and a well-thought out escape route.

issuing picture holds up the hunt

BY STEWART TENDLER. CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE hunt for Jill Dando's killer is making slow progress, hit by delays in issuing key pic-tures of the main suspect.

Three days after the murder senior detectives have also lost the advantage of the first 24 hours, called the "golden hours" by police because the memories of witnesses are at

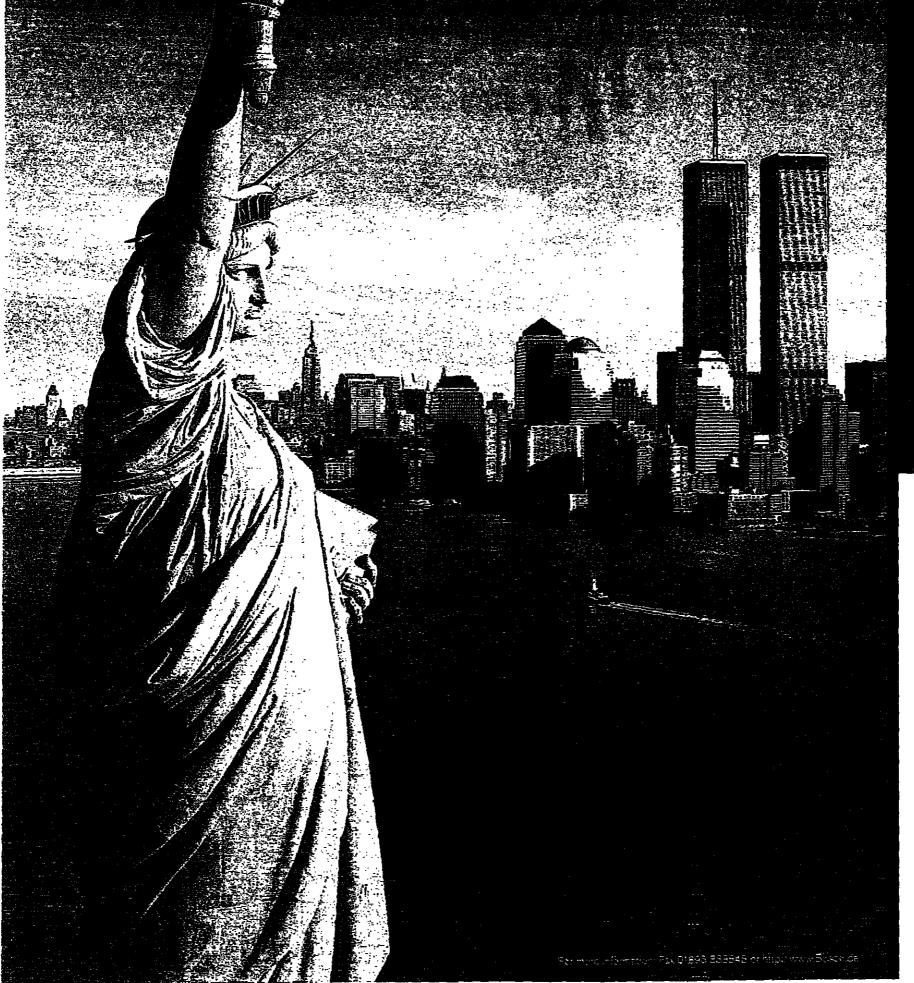
their sharpest.
Scotland Yard commanders believe the case is "very solvable", because of the number of witnesses, unless Miss Dando was the victim of a Serbian revenge attack. But a number of top leads, identified as "fasttrack inquiries", carried out in the first day of investigation

have failed to yield results.

These would include obvious tasks such as searches of the area, anyone immediately identified as having a motive

and tip-offs of good suspects. Yesterday the Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who had a good view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two wornen wimesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit. One of the problems is that witnesses may have only caught a side or back view of the suspect who was aged between 30 and 40, about 5ft 10in or 5ft 1lin tall, well dressed in a suit or dark jacket and trousers, and carrying a mobile telephone.

The Dando murder team. led by Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, know that they must get the best picture they can and time is not on their side. If the detectives rush out a poor picture, they face the risk that possible witnesses will eliminate suspects because they do not match it. Yesterday a specialist search team often used after terrorist attacks was in Gowan Avenue and nearby streets looking for the murder weapon.



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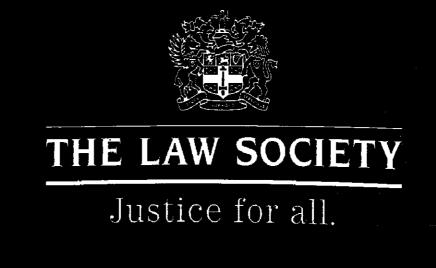
So what's the point of having rights, if basic access to justice is denied?

This Bill will hit the poorest and most vulnerable – the very people who need legal aid.

To protect their right to justice, ask your MP to lobby for changes to the Access to Justice Bill now. Before it's too late.



Refuge, a national lifeline for women and children experiencing domestic violence, shares these concerns about the impact of the Bill.



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July

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Poet of the Dome will pen ode to new era

By Mark Henderson

POETRY was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome yesterday when Simon Armitage was appointed as poet-in-residence.

Armitage, a Yorkshireman and one of Britain's foremost young poets. will spend six months based at Greenwich composing a 1,000-line ode to Britain's celebrations. He will be paid £5,000.

He will perform the com-pleted work in the Dome and at venues across the country. He is also likely to read ex-

LINKS

Dome home page

tracts at the New Year's Eve celebrations, though a full reading would probably be con-

OH HE Men

sidered too long. "I'm a slow reader and a thousand lines would take me about an hour." Armitage said. But he added: "If people are sober and patient enough to sit through that on millenni-

um night. I'll do it." The poem, which he promises will rhyme, will be published as a book. Extracts will feature around the Dome, possibly in zones for which they

are appropriate.

Composing a poem to mark an event of such importance



Armitage: will capture

would usually be a job for the Poet Laureate, a position that remains vacant since the death last year of Ted Hughes. Armitage is considered a strong option for the post. though not a frontrunner, and the commission is certain to

boost his candidacy. Armitage, 35 and a former probation officer, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize for his first collection of poems, Zoom! and is a winner of the Forward Prize for poetry. He writes on modern and accessi-

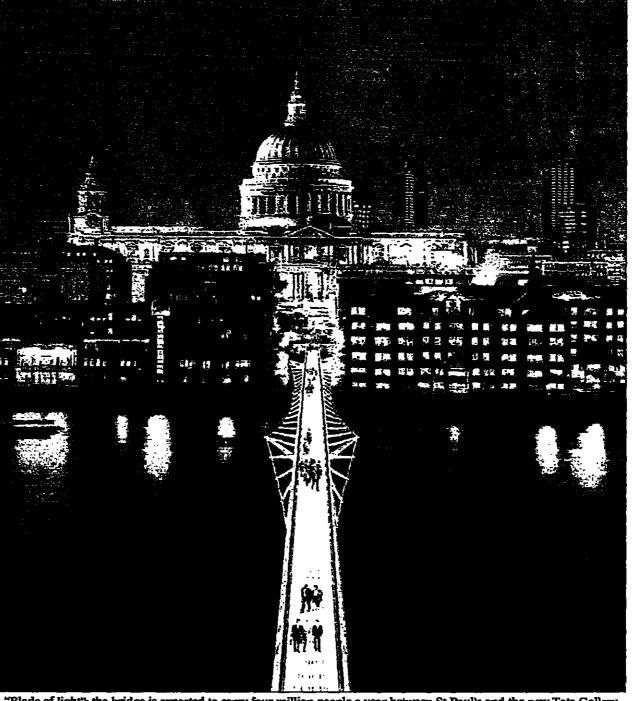
ble subjects - such as the retirement of Eric Cantona – and is a regular radio broadcaster.

His appointment will be seen as a gesture towards the North, where hostility towards the perceived London focus of the Dome is strong. He still lives in his home town of Huddersfield and will travel the nation for inspiration.

Yesterday, visiting the Dome for the first time, he said: "I want to capture the mood of the the country and what people make of the millennium. I'm not clear yet where it's going to take me that's part of the excitement."

His style and appeal to the young are thought to have in-fluenced his appointment, which is being funded by the Poetry Society's Poetry Places lottery scheme. Schoolchildren recently voted him their second favourite for Poet Laure-

ate, after Seamus Heaney. Yesterday the New Millennium Experience Company announced three new sponsorship deals - with Typhoo, Kodak and Mars - bringing the total to £144 million, just short of the £150 million target. It also said that 210,000 free tickets to the Dome would be offered to Greenwich residents.



هَكُذُا مِنَ الأُصِل

"Blade of light": the bridge is expected to carry four million people a year between St Paul's and the new Tate Gallery



Thames footbridge will be a lifesaver

By Mark Henderson

LONDON'S first new bridge across the Thames for more than a century is to have an innovative anti-suicide design. Curving balustrades will make it almost impossible for anyone to attempt to leap to their death.

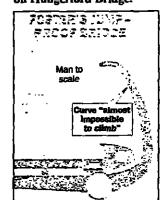
Construction began yesterday on the £16 million Millennium Bridge, which received a £7 million lottery grant. The architect Sir Norman Foster, who designed the footbridge with the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and the engineer Professor Chris Wise, said: "The contoured shape of the hand-rail makes it almost impossible to climb."

The low-level suspension bridge, which will link St Paul's Cathedral and the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, will be supported by stainless-steel balustrades that will curve away from the pedestrians. The balustrades' 5ft beight and curve mean that only the most deter-mined would be able to climb over. The four million people a year expected to use the bridge will not, however,

side disturbed by high safety

When it opens next April it will be London's first footbridge since Roman times and the first new bridge in Central London since Tower Bridge in 1894. At night it will be lit up to span the Thames with a "blade of light".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, officially launched construction yesterday. A second footbridge is being built with Millennium Commission funding upriver, beside the railway track on Hungerford Bridge.



Scientists train bees to detect landmines

BY NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HONEY bees are being trained by scientists to detect landmines in the hope that they can help clear vast areas where the deadly weapons have been buried and forgotten.

The work hinges on the ability of the bees to pick up dust and airborne chemicals on their bodies. Trace levels of TNT, the explosive commonly used in landmines, can be found in the air around the buried weapons. It may also be absorbed from the soil

into the pollen of flowering plants and picked up by the bees as they forage for nectar. The bees can then be screened for explosive chemicals on their return to the hive.

Jerry Bromenshenk, a bee expert at the University of Montana at Missoula and one of the team, said: "Bees are like flying dust mops. Wherever they go, they pick up dust, airborne chemicals and other samples on their fuzzy, statically charged bodies."

The scientists are also training bees to sniff out TNT chemicals by teaching them to link the smell of

explosives with the smell of sugary substances. New bee colonies are given feeders with sugary water tainted with a marker chemical. The feeders have then been moved further away from the hive and eventually

removed altogether. Dr Bromenshenk said the bees

e.org Wilson Institute for Demining and Human

were found foraging in areas where the marker chemical had been put down before returning to the hive.

Susan Bender, of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said: "The beauty of this approach is that bees are indigenous to nearly every climate on earth and there are beekeepers everywhere. You won't need a milliondollar piece of equipment and extensive training. The countries where landmines are a problem typically don't have those kinds of resources."

The Red Cross estimates that be-

tween 80 million and 120 million landmines are buried across the world, notably in Angola and Cambodia. An average of 60 people are mairned or killed by them every day.

Researchers at the Natural Resources Institute - part of the University of Greenwich - in Malvern. Worcestershire, have developed tiny antennae to attach to bees so that they can be tracked by radar.

Alan Smith, of the institute's radar entymology group, said: "You can tell the range and direction of a bee every

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MPs demand revenge of the school swot

brightest children are being let down by their schools and os-tracised by their classmates as "swots and boffins", according to MPs yesterday.

Successive governments have neglected the most able pupils in their efforts to raise standards in schools, according to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education. Even the literacy hour, introduced in primary schools this year, was not sufficiently flexible to cater for the clever.

The cross-party group called for a national strategy to en-hance the potential of bright pupils. Among the sugges-tions were for Nobel Prize winners to teach too sixth-formers. via the Internet Malcolm Wicks, the committee's chairman, said: "It would be ridiculous if the undiscovered Einstein or the undiscovered Mozart just had to plod through the A-level curriculum."

The six-month inquiry concluded that too many schools were unable or unwilling to cater to their brightest pupils. Some experts believed that up to 40 per cent of children should be considered "highly able" in one or more subject.

Mr Wicks said: "As a nation, over the past 20 years we

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accused of neglecting most able

pupils, reports John O'Leary

have focused on overall standards and, quite properly, been concerned about children who are doing less well. That means there is a danger that Britain's brightest children sometimes get a raw deal. We must ensure that good minds, a precious asset, are encouraged and not neglected."

The MPs' report called for named individuals to be re-sponsible for the brightest children in each school and local authority. But it rejected any single blueprint for teaching the most able, declaring that some would thrive in selective schools, while others would do better in comprehensives.

The committee said schools should be able to provide the stimulation that the most able children needed. Without suitprogrammes, some even disruptive.

Better links between schools and universities were one key to improved provision for children who could easily do A-levels. Academics could set and mark dissertations to stretch teenagers at school.

Among other recommendations were better training for teachers to recognise and teach children of high ability. and more flexibility in initiatives such as the National Literacy Strategy to avoid boring the brightest children.

But the report noted that first there must be a change in attitude regarding the educa-tion of bright children. One group that supports gifted chil-dren told the committee that it was not "cool" to be bright in many schools. Able children were dismissed as "swots".

Mr Wicks said bright children were sometimes bullied and ostracised. "Maybe this is something to do with a society in which intellectual figures are derided." But the report insists that

schools should remember that highly able children were still in their youth. They should be allowed to enjoy their childhood and not be treated as "brains on legs".



Students of self-hypnosis: from left, Matthew Chapman, Kirsty McGreeny, Lyndsey Lowe and Daniella Jones

Hypnosis beats exam stress

By Russell Jenkins

THE headmaster of a comprehensive school in Cheshire turned to a hypnotherapist for help when a group of GCSE pupils complained of examination stress. The students, aged 15 and 16, said that a paralysing anxiety

left them unable to revise. Graham Nelmes, head of the 1,230-pupil Priestnall School, in Heaton Mersey, near Stockport, invited Anne Jakubowska, 50, a qualified hypnotherapist, to the school to

hypnotise them. She conducted three one-hour sessions with the group of two boys and five girls, using her soothing voice and the power of imagination to encourage

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them to unburden themselves and learn to relax.

Mrs Jakubowska hopes to be invited back to the school and that the sessions might become an annual feature in the run-up to examinations. She said that

the kind of hypnotherapy she specialised in bore little resemblance to the theatricality of stage hypnotists.

"Hypnotherapy has nothing magical about it," she said. "We do not dangle anything and we don't put anybody under. They just allow themselves to

become pleasantly relaxed.

"We had three sessions where we worked with the power of positive suggestion, concentrating on improving their study skills and how to help them control their anxieties."

Each pupil was given a 20-minute tape recording to switch on whenever

they felt under stress. The school turned to Mrs Jakubowska because she was a former member of the parent-teacher association. She said that the improving powers of self-hypnosis had helped her two sons, both former pupils, in their studies, one of them

becoming head boy.

Dr Nelmes said he was not aware of any other school using the services of a

trained hypnotherapist.

He said: "We have a number of ways of preparing students for exams and this is just one more. The students have found it quite useful as a way of taking their minds off the pressures involved."

Maths pupils are worse than feared

By JOHN O'LEARY **EDUCATION EDITOR**

PRIMARY schools appear un-

likely to hit ambitious targets for mathematics after government advisers admitted that gaps in 11-year-olds' know-ledge is greater than ministers thought

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, attributed a 3 per cent drop in national test results last summer to the introduction of mental arithmetic tests. A subsequent analysis by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has shown that they were responsible for only

about a third of the decline. Nick Tate, the QCA chief executive, said ministers and officials had assumed that the unyears of testing, was due to schools inexperience in preparing children for mental arithmetic questions. "It was a perfectly reasonable assumption to make that this was the major fator. It was a contributory factor, but not the most significant one."

The authority's evaluation of the tests showed a more general decline in performance at a time when a 4 per cent improvement was needed to maintain progress towards the Government's target. Mr Blunkett has staked his reputation on 75 per cent of 11-yearolds reaching the expected level for their age by 2001, but last year only 59 per cent did so. Coming less than a week be**SUM TOTALS**

There were 20 questions in the 30-minute mental. arithmetic test, which will be similar this year. Pupils were asked to divide nine by three and add seven, and to calculate half of 3.6. Auother question asked: Alex paid for a tape with a £5 note and received £1.25 change. How much did the tape cost?"

fore the start of this year's tests, the disclosure underlines the precarious state of the Government's standards agenda. However. Mr Tate said: "It would be disastrous for anyone in the education sy assume that we cannot do better than we are currently doing. We have to assume that there is potential for continuous improvement. We don't know what the results are going to be like this year, but we hope they are going to improve."

Martin Ripley, the QCA's principal manager for test development and administration, acknowledged that test results inevitably tended to "plateau" after initial improvement. But he said that pre-testing suggested that children were better prepared in mental arithmetic this year and that government guidelines on the teaching of numeracy should start to have an effect.

Sailor vanishes from lost yacht

By Paul Wikinson, North East Correspondent

A BOAT belonging to a solo yachtsman who set off on a trip of about 15 miles has been found drifting, empty. more than 400 miles away.

Peter Bloomer, 51, an experienced amateur sailor, left the Neptune Marina at Ipswich aboard his 33ft boat, Tropical Spirit, at lunchtime on Saturday, April 17. He told staff that he planned to sail down the coast to Walton on the Naze, Essex, to explore coastal creeks, staying away overnight.

When he had not returned by Monday, April 19, an exten-sive search of the East Anglian coast was made, but nothing was found. Ports in France, Belgium and The Netherlands were alerted in case Mr Bloomer, had decided to head for the Continent.

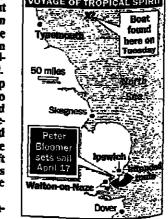
His single-masted sloop was not seen again until two days ago, when it was sighted 130 miles northeast of Tynemouth in Northumberland by a Ministry of Agriculture fisheries protection aircraft on a routine patrol. The sails were up but no one was at the

HMS Leeds Castle, a lish-

eries protection vessel, went to the scene and found Mr Bloomer's passport, a diary and his mobile telephone. but no sign of him.

A Coastguard spokesman said yesterday: "There are no obvious clues about what may have happened to him. We may have to assume that he went overboard and has drowned."

Mr Bloomer, who runs shipping company, Concept Caribbean, in Felixstowe, Suifolk is married with two sons, aged 19 and ten.

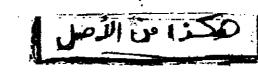




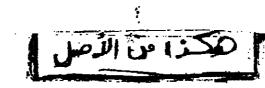
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THE Lord Chancellor faced a fresh onslaught yesterday over legal aid cuts when the Bar his own branch of the legal profession - turned its wrath

The Bar is urging the Government to amend the Access to Justice Bill, which is in its committee stage today, to pre-serve legal aid for vulnerable

It also wants enshrined in the Bill a fundamental principle, inserted by the Lords after a Government defeat, that access to justice must be provided to people without means, to the disabled and those in deprived areas.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases will affect the old, ne young and the disabled, the Bar says. The Lord Chancellor insists that they will be protected by a hardship fund and the £1.6 billion annual legal aid bill will remain intact. Dan Brennan, QC, Bar

Chairman, said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor says that these are the very people who are protected under his legal aid reforms. If that is the case, why not put it in the Bill?

"At present these people are protected under the legal aid system. Unless their future en-titlement to pursue such claims is guaranteed. legal aid

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Lawyers seek guarantees

for vulnerable

groups without

means, writes

Frances Gibb

Without such a guarantee, he

said, the "most vulnerable peo-

ple in society" would not have

He also hit back at the Lord

Chancellor's comments that

lawyers' protests arose from

concern about their incomes. The poverty of this argument is endorsed by its constant rep-

etition," Mr Brennan said. "It

is a stereotyped accusation that has become so hackneyed

that people do not pay it any at-

doctors and nurses of being

concerned about their incomes

when they complained about

inefficiencies and lack of services in the NHS. "Lord Irvine

does not say that they are lin-

weight to the Law Society. the

solicitors' professional body, which this week, backed by a

coalition of consumer and oth-

er groups, started a £700,000

The Bar's attack adds

ing their own pockets."

Nobody, he said, accused

the proposals.

The Government proposes to scrap legal aid for personal injury cases, and instead to rely on lawyers taking the cases on a "no win, no fee" basis. supported by insurance to cover the risk of having to pay the other side's legal costs. Lawyers say this will mean a wide swath of difficult but deserving cases which cannot be pur-

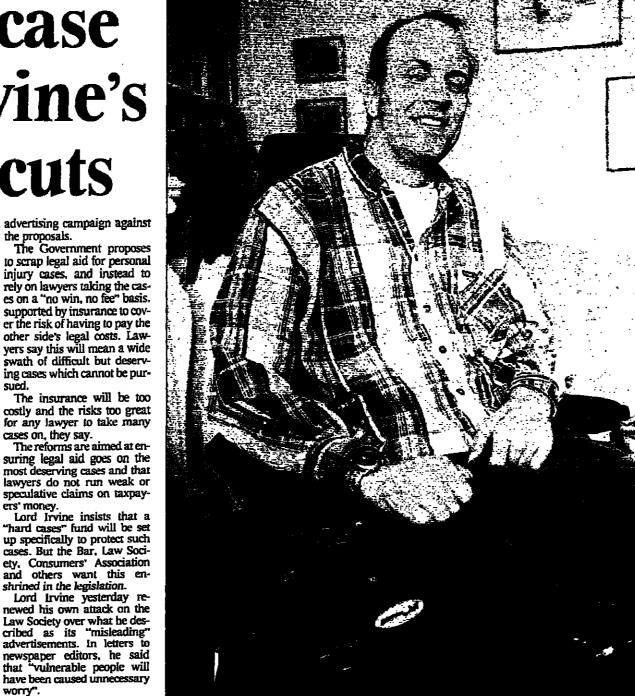
The insurance will be too costly and the risks too great for any lawyer to take many cases on, they say.

The reforms are aimed at ensuring legal aid goes on the most deserving cases and that lawyers do not run weak or speculative claims on taxpay-

Lord Irvine insists that a "hard cases" fund will be set up specifically to protect such cases. But the Bar, Law Society. Consumers' Association and others want this enshrined in the legislation.

Lord Irvine yesterday renewed his own attack on the Law Society over what he described as its "misleading" advertisements. In letters to newspaper editors, he said that "vulnerable people will have been caused unnecessary

Leading article, page 23



Legal aid enabled Trevor Jones to win £1 million in damages - and his independence

Cash awards that made life worth living

By Frances GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG, old and disabled people are the three groups that will suffer from the loss of legal aid, the Bar says.

Trevor Jones. 38. is paralysed from the shoulders down after breaking his neck in a skiing accident ten years ago when in the Royal Navy. His case was difficult because of the lack of an obvious defendant the accident happened when he swerved to avoid tourists cutting across the course.

After investigations, it emerged that his MoD-engaged instructor had ordered him down the course without having a proper view. The MoD was sued and more than !! million in damages recovered.

His solicitor. John Cahill, said: 'The damages have secured him a monthly income for life and given him techno-logical equipment which has radically changed his quality of life. Without legal aid, he added, the case would not have been brought. All costs were recovered.

Mr Jones, who needs 24-hour care, is seeking sponsors for a round-the-world voyage in a wingsail yacht. He said yesterday: "The difference in having the award is enormous I have a wheelchair mous. I have a wheelchair which cost £15,000 and a car which cost £40,000. It has given me independence."

Richard Charlton, now 11, needs round-the-clock care. Before he was born his mother

dent that injured them both. His parents could not care for him and he is with foster parents. With legal aid, a claim was brought against the other motorist and the settlement in his favour amounted to more than El million. That will provide him with care, aids and housing should he outlive his

foster parents, now 70 and 64. His barrister, David Wilby, QC, said that Richard has no voluntary limb, head or spine control. He has poor vision. and has a colostomy and is doubly incontinent. "He can smile and laugh and express concern and annoyance. He clearly loves his foster parents and his environment and he attends a special school."

Mr Wilby said that none of his care would have been possible without legal aid.

Mrs W, from Southend-on-Sea tripped after falling over a milkerate outside a newsagents, suffering significant injuries. She sued the shopkeeper, but he contested the action. Each had witnesses with differing stories as to how she fell.

Nigel Cooksley, the barrister who handled the case, said: This was going to be a difficult one to prove because of the conflicting evidence. Mrs W was able to get legal aid and secured a £10,000 settlement on the steps of the court."

No solicitor would have touched the action under a "no win, no fee" agreement and all costs were recovered, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor to

serve extra

200 hours

The Mayor of Labour-controlled Blaenau Gwent Council in South Wales was ordered

to carry out 200 hours of com-

munity service for fiddling

his expenses. Steven Bartlett,

52, was sentenced on two

counts of false accounting.

which he had denied before

Newport magistrates earlier

this month. In all, 13 council-

The court had heard that in

1996 he submitted a claim for

a £101 first-class train fare al-

ticket. He also claimed more

than he should for a car iour-

ney to a Brighton conference.

Mark Powell, defending, said that Bartlett had often

undercharged the authority. He had repaid the money

and was leaving politics.

Jail for 'air rage'

Paul Street, 31, from Hunting-

don in Cambridgeskire, was jailed for four months at En-

nis, Co Clare, after pleading

guilty to using threatening abusive behaviour on board a

London-bound American Air-

lines Boeing 767 on Saturday.

The aircraft had to divert to

May Morning revellers in Oxford are being barred from Magdalen Bridge because of

safety fears. In the past

students have jumped from the bridge into the Thames. About 20,000 people had

been expected to gather there

at daybreak on Saturday to bear Magdalen School choir.

Handling charge

A "don't touch" helpline was opened to save thousands of baby birds from unnecessary

handling. Many are "rescued" from the ground and taken to the RSPCA, when

they would be better off left

alone as parents will feed

Bridge ban

lors face such charges.

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them. The (50p a minute) number is: 09096 711211. Court agreement

Channel 4 is to go ahead later this year with a documentary series on homeless teenage children after an action in the High Court brought by Nottingham City Council. The identities of two girls in Staying Lost will be obscured. Two other children have withdrawn their consent and will

TODAY IN SECTION 2

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Students take a shine to token effort

By HANNAH BETTS

CITY Airport shoeshine supremo Stephen Reynolds has earned a place in The Times Free Books for Schools pantheon by collecting thousands of tokens for an East London

A delegation of ten children from Woolmore Primary School, Tower Hamlets, had a tour of the airport yesterday when they went to collect 2,500 tokens. They also tried the hand at shining shoes.

"We had great fun," said Mr Reynolds. "I've got my eye on a couple of them as budding apprentices. But I made sure to tell them that a morning out of school meant that they'd have to go back and catch up on their reading."

Mr Reynolds announced in The Times in February that he was looking for a school to be the beneficiary of his impressive token collection. Many of the tokens had

been plucked from the newspapers of customers while they enjoyed Mr Reynolds' work. Others had been gathered from the many travellers who pass through the airport. Woolmore Primary is a cul-turally diverse school where

70 per cent of the children have English as an additional language. Pupils are given every encouragement to enjoy books, from a lunchtime reading scheme with council workers from Tower Hamlets, to



dressing up as their favourite literary characters for World Book Day.

Tracy Argent, their head teacher, said: "The key thing isn't just getting children to read now, it is motivating them to carry on reading for the rest of their lives. Events like this help to convince them that reading is exciting." The school will be restock-

Schools scheme in the summer term and Mr Reynolds will be guest of honour.
The final Times tokens will

ing its library with its order

from the Free Books for

be published tomorrow, but they can be redeemed until July 20.
Mr Reynolds lamented the

end of the scheme: "It'll be really odd not having to cut out tokens — it's really kept us busy.
I don't know what we'll do with ourselves after Friday."

Token, page 26

Embassy linked to sex trade

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A CORRUPT official in the British Embassy in Bangkok has been supplying visas to
Thai women who have been recruited by Triad gangs in a
trade described as "the closest
thing to slavery that Western
Europe has to offer", it is claimed in a programme to be broadcast tonight.

The women are brought to massage parlours in Britain under contracts which force them to service up to 700 men without receiving a penny. Many think they are going to be given jobs as waitresses in Thai restaurants.

One such girl told how she was beaten into a semi-coma when she refused. The investigation by Lon-

don Weekend Television reporter Lee Sorrell, who was infiltrated into the trafficking groups by The Times' correspondent in Bangkok, also showed how British expatriates were more than happy to help the Triad gangs by recruiting girls and acting as "jockeys", bringing them into Britain as their girlfriends. British-Canadian Glen Mackenzie-Smith, 46, whose cover in Bangkok was as an English language teacher, was a willing fixer for a gang headed in Bangkok by a Chinese Thai called Boon Tam.

London remains the main destination but Glasgow and Edinburgh figure high on all traffickers client lists. Photographs taken in Brit-

ain and ontained by The Times show how the gangs take the girls sightseeing and send the photographs home to convince other girls that they will be well treated. ☐ The Sex Slave Trade. Chan-

nel 4, tonight at 9 pm.

Malcolm Bradings

Peter Ackroyd on the

not be appearing.

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APRIL 29 1999 h awards made life th living

First showing of the prince and the pawpaw

Detail in royal portrait suggests oranges were not the only fruit in Queen's hothouse, says Russell Jenkins

FRESH research into a Van Dyck masterpiece suggests at Windsor Castle but has Dyck masterpiece suggests that homegrown tropical fruit may have been everyday fare on the royal dining table in the

Xanthe Brooke, curator of European art at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, has identified the fruit featured in the painter's The Five Eldest Children of Charles I (1637) as a pawpaw.

It is believed to be the earliest recorded image of the exotic fruit, discovered in South American Caribbean in the early 17th century, in this country. Ms Brooke speculates that it was grown in Queen Henri-etta Maria's greenhouses, where oranges were also produced for the royal table.

The painting, part of the Royal Collection, was originally hung in the breakfast room at the Whitehall Palace, later burnt down. King Charles was known to be fond of it.

trated on the images of the children and their relationship with the huge dog. Ms Brooke said: "Identification of the pawpaw is partly hypothesis and supposition between myself and the head of botany at the Liverpool Museum. The still life has not been described in

painting. It has been ignored." The painting also features a Lyme mastiff dog, a breed that has been extinct for almost a century. They were originally bred at Lyme Park in Cheshire as a hunting dog and to fight bears. But they were favoured as pets because of their docility with children. The painting shows the dog being stroked by the future Charles IL.

any entry or descritoion of the

In the 16th and 17th centuries they were given as diplomatic gifts. In 1604 James I gave a pair to Philip of Spain to mark the signing of a peace treaty. The breed died out in the early years of this century.

Ms Brooke said: "These mastiffs were used as guard dogs as well as for hunting. In the painting the dog is guarding the children, but he was obviously a bit of a softie. A King Charles spaniel is also featured in this picture and is

dwarfed by the mastiff."



The pawpaw: from New

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Exotic fruit now a fare necessity

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE pawpaw — or papaya — celebrated in song by Baloo the Bear in *The Jungle Book*, has become one of the most familiar exotic fruits on Britain's supermarket shelves. Sales have increased more than tenfold in a decade. Tonnage rose by half from 1996 to 1997 when 3,700 tonnes were are believed now to have

topped £10 million. From tropical America, it and sub-tropical regions and comes from a fast-growing plant that fruits from the central stem after only a year. Pawpaw can be eaten as a fruit or vegetable, usually

sprinkled with lemon or lime juice and/or sugar. It can be diced in salads, makes good sorbets, mousses and icecreams and is used for chut-

neys and jams. The seeds can be liquidised as a salad dressing, having a spicy mustard and cress flavour. They can be dried and tralia, Aborigines considered them an aphrodisiac.

Pawpaws typically contain is now grown in most tropical 39 calories per 100g. have more vitamin C than oranges and are a good source of vitamin A and of dictary fibre. They are well stocked with phytonutrients, thought valuable in combating disease.

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paw shows that exotic fruit adorned King Charles's dining table long before they were rounnely shipped from the been loaned by the Queen to the Walker Gallery, where it goes on show tomorrow until July 18. New World, at the end of the 17th century. Only the hardiest examples would have sur-Much of the scholarly interest in the painting has concenvived the trip from the West Indies, suggesting the Queen may have cultivated them in the hothouses at Windsor.

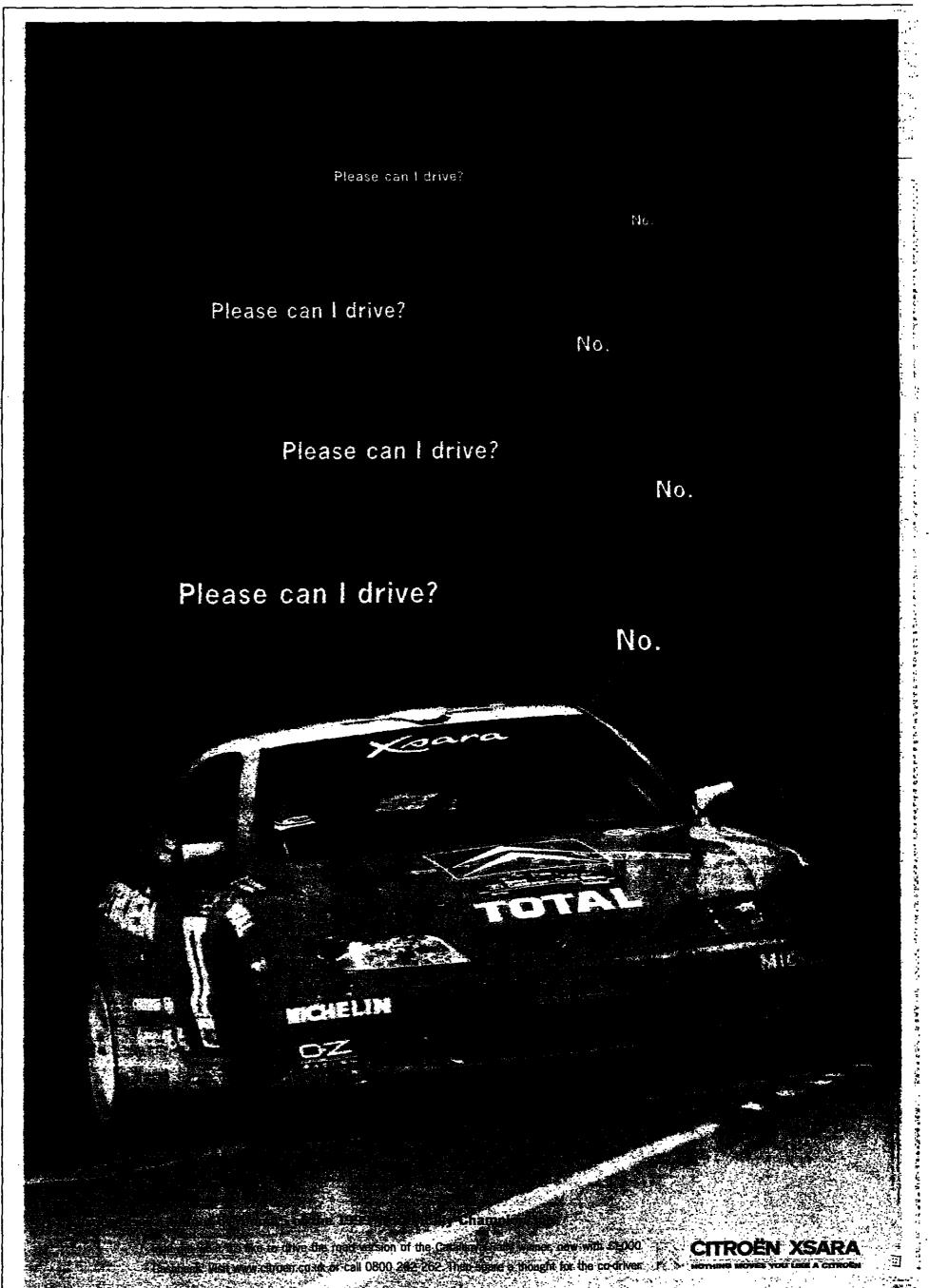
Ms Brooke said: "It is clear-

ly no accident that the pawpaw is in the painting. Essentiasily, she was showing off and Van Dyck was probably delighted to include it as a novel detail."

The Royal Horticultural Society said the discovery was a startling revelation. It added that there were no known records of pawpaw being cultivated in Britain.



The pawpaw can be seen beside the bowl in the top right of Van Dyck's The Five Eldest Children of Charles I, which was painted in 1637



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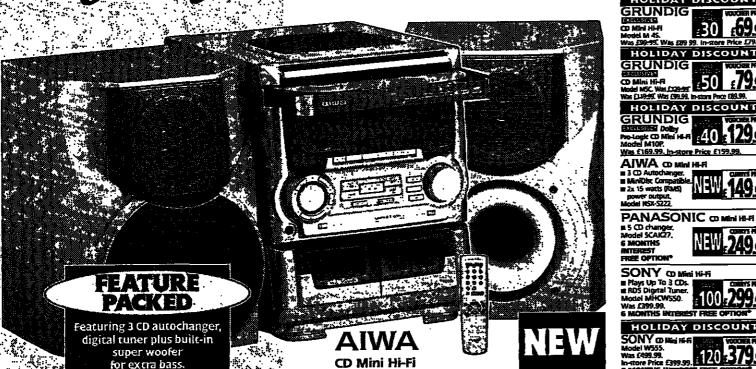
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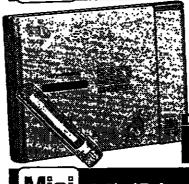
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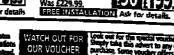


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Tebbit surgeon was dismissed after blunders

geon who was made an OBE for helping to save Lord Tebbit's wife after the Brighton bombing was sacked after a series of life-threatening blunders during operations, an industrial tribunal was told

yesterday.
David Skidmore perforated a woman's artery during keyhole surgery to remove her gall bladder the day after he lacerated another patient's liver during another keyhole operation. The woman whose arrery was pierced required emergency heart resuscitation and a blood transfusion to

stop her bleeding to death. The operations were the culmination of a catalogue of errors that caused "major anxieties" among Mr Skidmore's colleagues at the Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, in 1997, said Paul Key, medical director of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

He told the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: "It was not one colleague but several raising concerns. Both myself and the clinical director decided we would recommend sus-



Skidmore: accused of lying to patients

Senior medical

and after NHS reforms.

Skidmore is claiming unfair dismissal, is being regarded by some as a challenge by doc-

tors about who should run hos-

pitals -- senior medical staff or

non-medical managers. Mr Skidmore is seeking re-

instatement, claiming that the

complaints against him do not

amount to misconduct be-

cause six cases questioning his clinical competence were reject-

at Joyce Green Hospital from

1980, as well as West Hill and North Kent hospitals, has fre-

quently criticised the manage-

ments of NHS hospitals and

trusts. In 1990 he criticised the

then South East Thames Re-

gional Health Authority for

overspending its budget and seeking credit from suppliers.

The hearing is expected to

Mr Skidmore, who worked

ed by the GMC.

figure claims victimisation

over criticism of NHS, writes

As medical director I had a duty to act."

Joanna Bale

Dr Key said he realised that two operations had gone wrong on consecutive days only when the husband of one of the women told him that the patients had been in adjoining beds and had been comparing

their ordeals. Mr Skidmore, 59, who was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct in 1997, was also accused of lying to patients and colleagues to play down the blunders. Dr Key added: "Mr Skidmore was a senior consultant. Consultants are regularly unsupervised and it is imperative that, in their dealings with the trust, other professionals and patients, they observe complete integrity."

He added: "The findings of the chief executive, upheld on appeal, meant that Mr Skidmore had on several occasions told untruths which were compounded by his persistence in them over a two-day disciplinary hearing."

Earlier in the hearing. Mr Skidmore's lawyer, Anthony Temple, QC, said the surgeon. who lectures at University College and Middlesex hospitals in London, had been the victim of a malicious campaign because of his criticism of hos-

Adverts are the price of free phone calls

TELEPHONE bills could SKINNY teenage girls are past for callers willing to interrupt their conversations every few minutes to listen to a com-

mercial break. Britain's first "free" national telephone service. Free2Talk. will be launched in July by Freedom Telecom, a littleknown telephone company in which the television presenter Noel Edmonds is an investor. Freedom, run by a 26-year-old entrepreneur, Joshua Sayles, has spent £18 million setting up the service, which it will launch in partnership with the

Energis telephone company.

An almost identical service provided by BT will go on trial next month in Bristol and Tyne and Wear, and is expected to be launched nationally later this year.

Customers who want to take advantage of either service will have to fill in a questionnaire, detailing their shopping habits, age, sex and income. They will then be given an access code.

Both services are likely to be aimed at young people, stu-dents and low-income households. Freedom's service is expected to play adverts every ive minutes, while BT's will be every two minutes.

proved a success in Stockholm, where a small company, GratisTel, has gained a 7 per cent market share.

US girls find that thin is beautiful

By ALEX O'CONNELL

boys than their curvier peers according to a new study. A mere 19lb can be the difference between getting a date and missing out, says a report by Carolyn Halpern, an assistant professor of ma-ternal and child health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr Halpern, whose study set out to investigate the implications of body fat on sexual activity, said: "One reason adolescent girls are concerned about their weight is that they believe that being slim increases their chances of dating. Our data indicates they

are right." Researchers followed 200 white and black girls aged 13 and 14 for two years. They found that a girl of average height and weight in the group - around 5ft 3in tall and weighing 9 stone - was only half as likely to date as a girl of the same height and physical maturity weighing 7

findings seem to be out of kilter with the current British for normal-sized. healthy-looking teenage pop stars and actresses. Posters of the buxom 16-year-old pop singer. Billie, are currently on the bedroom walls of adolescent boys across the coun-

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Bernadine Coady resting after the "painless" operation on her foot

Trance helps patient to blank out pain

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NURSING bome matron returned to work yesterday, two days after a painful operation on her foot under

Bernadine Coady, 58, who was worried about having an anaesthetic because she has a trait of sickle-cell technique she learnt five years ago

while studying for a diploma course at the British School of Hypnosis. Mrs Coady, who came to Britain 30 years ago from Belize to train as a nurse, had the operation to reconstruct the bones in her foot so that she could walk without pain. Despite a warning that the procedure would in-volve cutting muscles and tendons and sawing through bone, she decided against having an anaesthetic because of her condition, in which the blood can easily be starved of oxygen. She had originally booked a hypno-

tist to come to the Fitzwilliam Hospial, in Peterborough. Ahmed Shair, her surgeon, had agreed the arrangement with the hospital, but took the precaution of having an anaesthetist on standby in case Mrs Coady was unable to bear the pain.

At the last minute the hypnotist failed to show up and Mrs Coady de-cided to hypnotise herself. "I imagined my leg as an iron rod and that. when I heard the instruments, it was them knocking against the iron bar. I

said to myself that, if I had any pain. I was going to liken it to waves lashing against a sea wall. Every time it happened. I thought it was the pain going

rway, like the tide." Mrs Coady, from Wimblington, Cambridgeshire, said: "I worked on the pain. I was aware of everything that was going on. This is the power of the mind, or madness. If surgeons could open their minds to it. you would find more people doing it."

Mr Shair said that he had never

performed an operation in such a nanner in his 20 years as a surgeon "She was in absolute control."

The operation requires an over-night stay to recover, but Mrs Coady was able to go home hours later. Kenneth Phillips, a retired GP who

works in Harley Street, said all hypnosis was self-hypnosis. "People who be-come hypnotised have to be capable of transferring their cons newhere else." He would like to see hypnosis used more commonly in surgery. "Every anaesthetic is a risk but, with hypnosis, there is virtually

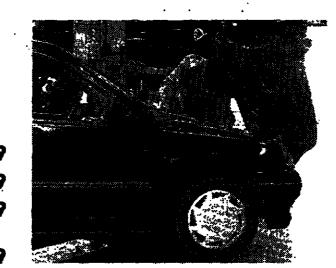


http://www.hypnosis.org.uk/orgs. Information and register of medical hypnosis organisations

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same again at Westminster. The election of the Scottish parliament in a week's time will not only change politics for ever north of the border, it will also have far-reaching, yet little appreciated, consequences for the House of Commons.

Recent polls suggest that around 15 members of the Commons (plus nine former MPs) are likely to become members of the parliament in Edinburgh. Most of them will probably be part-timers at Westminster, like some Northern Ireland MPs are

But the position of all 72 Scottish MPs has changed. This is not only about the long-debated, im-Peter portant, yet unre-RIDDELL solved West Lothi-

an question. the anomaly whereby Scottish MPs can vote on health, education and other devolved matters affecting people in England, but not their constituents north of the

Much of the day-to-day postbags of MPs concern just those domestic issues which are being devolved. So should a member of the Commons pass on a letter to the member of the Scottish parliament who will, after all, represent the same area? There may be problems even if the two members are of the same party, given the prickly egos of many politicians. Also, what will the Scottish MPs do at Westminster? Not all are like Gordon Brown or Robin Cook. There several poor quality MPs from in and around Glasgow who have little to say on national, as opposed to devolved, is-

Scotland will have a mosaic of representation. As well as local councillors, Scots will, after May 6, also have one constituency member, and seven regional list members. of the Scottish parlia-

After June 10, Scots will be represented by eight members of the European Parliament. But who should constit-

ife will never be the resentation now mean? This issue was addressed at a recent seminar organised by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Scottish Council Foundation. One theme was "signposts, not no-entry signs", so informa-tion should be available about the differing roles of elected members and their specific interests, but there should be no rigid demarcation about who handles what

I doubt if this will be sustainable in the long-term: in Germany, where there is a similar multi-layered structure, most constituency case work is handled at the local

or regional/ lander levels rather than national-The current

view of represen-

tation will have

ined. As Matthew Taylor, director of the IPPR has argued "to compensate for their lack of job satisfaction, MPs have invested more and more time in individual case work for constituents. But while MPs spend an average of more than 30 hours a week on casework which would be better dealt with by local councillors or a strengthened ombudsman, other impor-tant roles are largely over-

MPs should, as Mr Taylor argues, see themselves more as civic entrepreneurs, not just dealing with individual cases but also getting people together (councils, businesses and community groups).

The Scottish parliament will also have lessons for Westminster, not just in the semi-circular design of the chamber, or electronic voting, or the "family-friendly" working hours. The proportional electoral system should ensure that no one party has an overall majority, so the emphasis will be on consensus building, co-operation and consultation.

Scotland is a laboratory of democracy, and Westminster should not be superior, as it usually is, about the experience of other legislatures.

Blame it on Basildon

WHO SAID WHAT: THE ROAD TO A U-TURN

diversity and choice among providers

of the service and for encouraging

public private partnerships." Peter Lilley, Rab Butler lecture, April 20.

■ "We believe that the private sector, in partnership with the public, can make an important new contribution

to the health services in this country."

William Hague, in The Times, April

■ "Of course it ruffles a few feathers

get unruffled because that is the way I

if you do that. But they will have to

be some scope for introducing

Tory turmoil has its roots in Essex man's input to

party's focus groups, writes **Andrew Pierce**

BASILDON - the 1980s stronghold of Thatcherism was an unlikely trigger for the biggest crisis of William

Hague's leadership. It was in the home of Essex Man that 12 disillusioned Tory voters gathered round a table in a private house to discuss why they had abandoned the

The health service dominated the 90-minute discussion shortly before Easter, the last focus group in target seats including Basingstoke, Red-ditch, Leeds and Ipswich. The voters met under the watchful eye of ICM, the Tories' polling organisation. Each person was paid £20. But it proved the most politi-

cally expensive focus group the Tories have commissioned. Peter Lilley analysed the thoughts of the Basildon voters, and decided his party had no option but to go for broke — the link with Margaret Thatcher and the free market must be severed. The result has been the big-

gest revolt at Conservative party headquarters in living memory. Mr Lilley, once regarded as one of the most thoughtful and Thatcherite figures in the party, is now an isolated and forlorn figure, the brow beneath his thinning fair thatch furrowed in fear. Only Danny Finkelstein, the

former SDP member who is head of policy, and David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, are prepared to stand up for Mr Lilley, the blond who dropped the bomb-The other two former SDP

members now running Central Office - Andrew Cooper, head of operations and Rick Nye, head of research - were sceptics in the first place. They are both furious that focus group research has been used to such disastrous effect. Mutinous Tory MPs are now demanding Lilley's head

in the next reshuffle. "He has

to go," one former minister

said last night. At headquar-

"I cannot understand why Lilley made the speech or why he failed to consult us," a senior strategists said. "It is a mess, and it is a serious mess. There is great loyalty here to William Hague. I have no

The decision to rewrite the party's philosophy was taken the previous week at the newly formed strategy group chaired by Mr Hague James Arbuthnot, the Chief Whip, Mr Lilley. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, were present. They agreed to go on the offensive to try to ditch once and for all the perception that the party was hostile to the NHS. Mr Lilley, who had the Rab Butler lecture in his diary, was nominated.

Francis Maude would fol-

By MARK INGLEFIELD

POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY activists yesterday ex-

pressed concern and dismay

about the row dividing the

Michael Buxton, Michael

Howard's agent in his Folke-

fore the local elections.

Lilley: the blond who dropped the bombshell

Most Conservatives have always

accepted that the public services are intrinsically unsuited to delivery via

the market." Peter Lilley, unamended

lecture, circulated to Shadow Cabinet,

first draft of Rab Butler memorial

We will only |renew public

confidence if we openly and

emphatically accept that the free

Times, April 19.

ters his name is mud. Even

Mr Hague last night tried to

draw a line under the contro-

versy by mentioning Mr Lilley

doubt he is as redoubtable a

Thatcherite as anyone. It is perverse he has found himself in

this mess. I can only think he

was not properly focussed."

only once in his speech.

market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare." Peter Lilley, preview of Rab Butler lecture in The

II "In some public services there may

low through with a commitment, which he had made countless times before but had been lost on the voters, to renew the Tories' pledge to match Labour's spending promises on the NHS. It all went wrong. Mr Lilley

Hague: the leader who wants to ruffle feathers

am going to carry on." William

Hague, speaking on Radio 5 Live's Sunday Breakfast programme.

The parliamentary party is in

"We will always be proud of

Margaret Thatcher and we will

always be champions of the free

Conservative activists. April 28.

market ... " William Hague, speech to

crisis over the Lilley speech." James Arbuthnot, Conservative Chief Whip.

showed only the first draft of the speech to Ann Widdecombe and Iain Duncan Smith, who run the health and social security portfolios. They were to be given final

texts but they never materialised. To the fury of both, the fi-nal version, which ignored

sis of the row in Peter Lilley's

A constituency chairman in

Tory seat in the Midlands

said his activists were furious.

"We don't like it at all." he

said. "The reaction here is very

speech last weekend.

their objections, was pushed in the next day's papers. Mr Lilley authorised the

spin which continued throughout the week with the suggestion that the Tories would bury the party's Clause Four. One Thatcherite frontbench-

er said last night: "If this is merely a matter of a presentaemphasis William tional Hague will keep most of his support. If it is not, and it is a serious shift in policy, he will not. It is as simple as that."

stone and Hythe constituency, strongly against Lilley and Michael McInnes, said he was

icies. The problem is no one

can identify what's happening

and that does not make it easy

to get across our message to

ency chairman in Henley,

Michael Heseltine's constitu-

said that some party workers there is alarm about any de-

were unhappy about the gene-tachment from Thatcherite pol-

Leading article, page 23

money will help the NHS'

By ROLAND WATSON POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories insisted vesterday that they were as keen as ever to get more private money into the National Health Service.

After days of confusion about Conservative policy on opening public services to the market. Ann Widdecombe. the Shadow Health Secretary, said it had not changed. She listed various ways in which she wanted to bring private money into the NHS, emphasising that they would only be additional to state spending not a substitute for it. Options being considered

include tax concessions for those taking out private medical insurance, help for firms which offer employee insurance schemes and expanding the amount of building and refurbishment carried out under the Private Finance Initiative. She also proposed setting up a commission "to develop ways of adding commercial and charitable health provi-

sion on top of state provision". Miss Widdecombe said: "We are trying to take a very broad view and look at a number of possibilities." Miss Widdecombe, who

was one of the senior Tories to criticise Peter Lilley at last week's Shadow Cabinet meeting over his speech distancing the party from Thatcherism, was addressing a press conference called by Conservative Central Office to try to draw a line under the episode. "There has never, ever been any suggestion, not under Margaret Thatcher, not under John Major, of privatising the health service. Peter Lilley was trying to dispel that myth and he

But both she and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, refused to endorse the views of Mr Lilley as laid out in the first draft of his Rab Butler memorial lecture in which he said the public services were "intrinsically unsuit-ed to delivery via the market".

very concerned at Mr Lilley's

thought, 'Oh God, not another

Jean Gibbons, acting chair-

man in Tom King's Bridgwa-

ter seat, said it was "not a good

moment to be having these in-

was right to do so," she said.

Activists bemoan Lilley 'own goal'

own goal.'"

ternal wrangles".

Tories in Car split over SE stunt -: service Formes da

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By Jason Allardyce and Magnus Linklater

THE Liberal Democrats could sacrifice their commitment to abolishing university tuition fees as the price of forming a coalition with Labour in the Scotush parliament.

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In an interview with The Times. Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, refused to guarantee that a Lib-Lab deal would require the would require the El.000-a-year charges to be scrapped. His refusal is likely to spark a backlash within his party and among students given that a commitment to abolishing the fees is contained in its manifesto for the Scottish elections on May 6.

Until now, it seemed likely that a cross-party alliance would outvote Labour on the charges in the Edinburgh par-liament because the Scottish National Party and Scots Tories are also committed to abolishing tuition fees.

But it now seems increasingly likely that a coalition deal could be reached between Labour and the Lib Dems which would involve Labour promising further investment across

Scottish education. Asked if he would guarantee that a Lib-Lab government would scrap the fees, Mr Wal-lace said: "You are jumping the gun. I'm telling you that's our policy, that's what we want to get, along with every other policy in the manifesto."

In contrast, Mr Wallace has

set out a clear pre-condition for a coalition with the SNP. He still argues that a deal is impossible unless the nationalists abandon their commitment to a referendum on Scottish independence in the first four-year term.

Mr Wallace is diffident about his working title during the election campaign as "the king-maker". Despite the fact that his party may be within a week of wielding the kind of power it has aspired to but failed to achieve for the better part of this century. Mr Wallace refuses to be drawn on what his precise terms are for

serving in a coalition government. He even prefers to quote the words of his Labour rival Donald Dewar rather than trust his own. "There's been a lot of speculation about what happens," he reads. "As far as I'm concerned I'm thinking about the 6th of May. The 7th of May will take care of itself.

There are a number of options currently available. Until we see what the circumstances are, we've not selected one option above another. That would be foolish. Until we are in a position to do that, we will keep pushing our case and lis-tening to the people of Scot-

It is hardly the most electrify-ing quotation of the campaign, but Mr Wallace is well pleased with it. He describes it as "elegant". And it allows him to fence round the one question everyone wants an answer to. But it is clear that he is fully

ate, and carry on with a minorprepared for the great day ity government. There would be a presumpwhen, as he hopes, he will sit tuousness there," he warns. "A down with Labour and negoti-

ate for power. The one mo-ment at which he became sud-

denly forthright was when he

was asked whether Labour

might simply refuse to negoti-

Jim Wallace on the campaign trail in Dundee. On the horse-trading expected after the election, he says. "I'm not to be bought at any price kind of arrogance that people despise about the Labour Party, who think they can have it all their own way even when the people haven't given them a majority to have it their own way. I don't think that would be the best recipe for stability."

So when will we know what

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the Liberal Democrats' conditions will be for joining a coalition Scottish government? Mr Wallace has the answer pat: May 8. Not May 7, the day after the elections. "No decisions will be made that day," he says. "The one piece of advice I've had from Paddy Ashdown

is: don't make any decisions immediately after polling day, because you're far too tired. I want to get to my bed as early as possible." And which job will he be angling for in a fu-ture Scottish Cabinet? "Ha. you're not going to draw me

ciples for a ministerial Mondeo." Not even a ministerial Jag? For a moment, a pause, and then a loud guffaw. 'Certainly not," he says. "I'm not to be bought at any price."

Magnus Linklater, page 22



Tories in CAMPAIGN FOR

Scotland's two most senior Tories clashed publicly over a controversial election campaign stant which has linear-ened future party funding. The split came after The Times revealed that the party was facing legal action over its decision to produce 30,000 T shirts bearing the slogar FCUK. Tuition Fees. Annabel Goldie, the Scotlish party's deputy leader, voiced the deep anger of traditional activists who found the stant grossly offensive.

tender, voiced the deep anger of traditional activists who found the stunt grossly offeneried further last night when a spokeswoman for French Connection, which owns the trademark FCUK, confirmed that the company's buryers had issued the Conservative Party with a letter threatening legal action. The company is also demanding a personal apology from William Plague. Mr Goldie dissiped with David McLetchie, the Scottish frader, who have designed the stund. Mr Goldie skid. It was about mathematical board this nonsense and like many officers I was never consented about it / if I had been so I would never used squeed to it.

SNP changes action

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, has put independe by back at the center of his parry's campaign, promising to hold a reprending out in taking up-the Vision as those as possible? Since the clecking in a change it makes which will please input an emblade in the Souther National Public Will please input another than the first plant will present the first plant of the public plant of the first plant of the public plant of the first plant of the public plan that Sook could be asked to sole or instance of the compliant of the particular stated asked to sole or independence within the particular stated, as dependence was placed last on the party's ten point places card. A series of disastrons polt results have forced the SNP to relaunch its companion.

QUOTE of the day

Independence is at the centre and the beart of our concerns and always:

has been 2

David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, visits the

today's AGENDA

Isle of Arran where he will talk about the SNP's economic policies. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, attends a Catholic schooling conference in Crieff. Labour's Donald Dewar takes the battlebus to Glasgow. Jim Wallace, Lib Dem leader, will talk about tuition fees in Cum-

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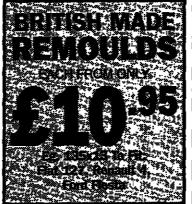


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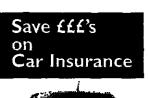
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WORLD IN BRIEF

Tension rises over Israel poll

Vote hangs in balance, writes Christopher Walker from Jerusalem

THE Palestinians vesterday decided to postpone any decision on declaring an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza until after the Israeli election, adding a new dimension to a cliff-hanging poll that moved into top gear this week with the launch of television

campaign broadcasts. The news came against the backdrop of 48 hours of violence in which eight Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lehanon and another was injured in the West Bank.

Even before the latest violence, the future of Israel's 21year military presence in southern Lebanon and the deadlocked Middle East peace process with the Palestinians - including their continued demand for an eventual state had emerged as key issues bitterly dividing the main con-

Because of the closeness of the race - the last poll in 1996 was decided by 30,000 votes and the constraints imposed on railies by security problems, television advertising is expected to play a key role. The election takes place on



Shown by polls to be the main challenger to Mr Netanyahu, the man he charge of Israel's Sayers Matikal elite commando. unit. Renamed his party the One Israel Party, but still problém that many -Sephandic Jews regard Labour as elitist. Campaign boosted by top former Clinton spin-doctors but could be thwarted by the

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU Narrowly elected as Israel's youngest Prime Minister in 1996, "Bibi". Netanyahu was forced to the polls 18 expected after failing to hold his Likud-led coalition together over the deadlocked peace process. Uncrowned king of Israel's media-dominated

campaigning, he is still a possible winner despite

upsetting the White House.

May 17 with 33 parties compet-

ing for 120 seats in the 15th

Knesset, compared with the

record set in 1988 of 27 parties

struggling for the \$5,000 votes

needed to secure a single seat.

candidates running for the di-

rectly elected position of prime

minister, which Binyamin Net-

anvahu has held since 1996. If

one of those fails to win 50 per

cent in the first ballot, there

More significant are the five

making many enemies



will be a presidential-style sec-

ond round between the two

in a country where the old joke

is very much alive and well.

have been complicated by the

emergence of a new Centre Party. led by Yitzhak Mor-

dechai, Mr Netanyahu's popu-

lar former Defence Minister,

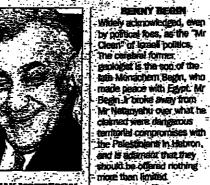
as a strong contender. Unless

Predictions of the outcome

"two Jews, three opinions"

front-runners on June 1.

YTTZHAK MORDECHAL Popular former Defence Minister under Mr. Netanyabu until sacked on TV for his talks with Centre Party, which he now leads after opinion polls showed him the most popular of the tounders with voters Favours continuation of paace process, but has yet to take off in the polls. against Mr Barak and Mr Netanyahu. Under pressure



to stand down in exchange for top post in a future.
Barak-led government.

Mr Mordechai stands down

before May 17, he will open the

way to a second round be-

Mr Netanyahu is likely to

win a second round because of

a strong turnout among Jew-

ish supporters compared with that of Israeli Arabs, unlikely

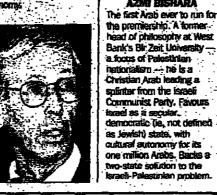
to turn out a second time in suf-

ficient numbers to secure victo-

ry for Mr Barak. Neither Ben-

tween Mr Netanyahu and La-

bour's Ehud Barak.



ny Begin, the far-right candidate, nor Azmi Bishara, the first Arab prime ministerial challenger in Israel's 51-year history, are given any chance.

AZMI BISRARA

Netanyahu led off the nearly 90 minutes of party po-litical broadcasts on Monday night, many scripted and su-pervised by highly paid American media experts. Offstage in Mr Netanyahu's

corner is Arthur Finkelstein,

wizard who is so reclusive about his presence in Israel that he often checks into a Jerusalem hotel under a false

Mr Barak - Israel's most decorated soldier - is having his campaign masterminded by a team of liberal Americans including James Carville, the so-called "Ragin' Cajun" from Louisiana, Stanley Greenberg and Bob Shrum, who were all present at the birth of the famous slogan for party workers in President Clinton's first campaign, "It's the economy,

The American advisers will market the two leaders to the people of Israel in almost the same way as an advertiser markets a new orthopaedic mattress," said the Haaretz columnist Akiva Eldar.

The difference is that the ratings of the campaign broadcasts really can affect the Israeli citizen's quality of sleep during the next four years."

The outcome is expected to hinge on the whim of floating voters, and the spin-doctors will be focusing on the one million immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

In Monday's opening round Mr Netanyahu's Likud had the wit to include Russian subtitles for the new arrivals. By Tuesday, such is the speed of "electoral response Israel's teams". Labour's platform was repeated word for word in

Russo-Chinese frontier pact Beijing: China and Russia have reached a breakthrough

in talks to map out their common border, ending a 300-year-old dispute. a Russian diplomat said here. "The" task of marking out the border is complete after seven years of work," he said of the 2,656-mile border between

The head of the Russian negotiating team, Genrikh Kireev, had exchanged documents in Beijing with his Chinese opposite numbers, the diplomat said. The documents are ready to be signed. It will be done at the next summit between the heads of state or government this year, either in Moscow or in Beijing." (AFP)

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TO COURT OF A STATE

Home rights for 1.6m

Hong Kong: Officials say that more than 1.6 million mainland Chinese could have the right to live in Hong Kong as the result of a court ruling last January (Jill McGivering writes). A government survey suggests that 700,000 people, the children of permanent residents, could apply for residency immediately. Many are adults, and their children, more than 900,000 second-generation migrants, would also win the right of abode.

Kabila victory claim

Nairobi: The Congolese Army announced that its forces recaptured the eastern town of Bendera this week after heavy fighting with rebels and Rwandan troops in which 120 Rwandans were killed (Robin Lodge writes). There has been no independent confirmation of the claim, which was made by the armed forces spokesman, Leon Kasonga. If confirmed, it would provide a significant boost to the Government of President Kabila.

Capitol bacteria scare

Washington: Safety inspectors have found a recurrence of "potentially hazardous" levels of legionnaires' disease bacteria in the power plant that supplies heat and air-conditioning to the Capitol building (lan Brodie writes). High concentrations were found seven months ago. Inspectors said the system would not send the deadly bacteria through vents to congressional offices, but could pose a hazard to plant workers.

Supper's ready

Rome: Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper, painted on the wall of a convent in Milan in 1498, went on show to the public after restoration work lasting 22 years. Rather than using the classic fresco technique. Leonardo chose a mix of tempera emulsion and oil on a plaster base. The technique, generally reserved for paintings on wood, allowed him to retouch the composition, but trapped damp in the wall. (AFP)

Death penalty call

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. Thirty of the commission's members voted in favour and 11 against including the United States and China. The European Union-sponsored text calls on all states that have the death penalty to reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed. (AFP)

Grateful Mandela forges closer ties with Russians



Mandela: greeted by a guard of honour

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S renaissance as a world player was further reinforced yesterday by the arrival in Moscow of Nelson Mandela, the South African

Mr Mandela, who retires in June and is in Russia to discuss strengthening bilateral political and economic ties. expressed his gratitude to lussia for its support in lighting apartheid.

We received enormous assistance from the Soviet Unnot get from the West," he said. "Russia should have been the very first country

that I visited and I have come to pay that debt now."

The two countries signed agreements on the development of natural resources. such as gold and diamonds, and a declaration of co-operation in nuclear energy, specifically the development of helium modular nuclear reactors, thought to be the safest.

Russian politicians now railing against Nato's actions in Serbia are painfully aware of their economic dependence on the West. The International Monetary Fund has agreed to resume loans to ssia, beginning with about \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) in an accord to be finalised in Washington this week.

Birthday bash for Saddam

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq celebrated his 62nd birthday yesterday by throwing a huge party across his impoverished country to demonstrate the resilience of his regime in the face of economic same tions and a war of attrition by US and British military aircraft (Michael Theodonlou writes). State radio crooned Huppy Birthday in English while singers and poets led parades of ad-ulation of the man who has led his country into two dis-astrons wars in 20 years.

Pol Pot torture chief tells of Briton's death

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

COMRADE Deuch, the commandant of Pol Por's "S-21", the extermination and torture prison in Phnom Penh during the years of the "killing fields". has been found helping refugee charities in western Cambodia and says that as a bornagain Christian he wants to atone for his sins.

Deuch, real name, Kiang Khek lev, was the most wanted member of the Khmer Rouge regime after its leader Pol Pot, who died last year. In an interview with a British photo-journalist, Nic Dunlop, he said he remembered John Dewhirst, a Briton captured

by the Khmer Rouge with a New Zealand friend, Kerry Hamill, and a Canadian, Stuart Glass. The three were executed at S-21. "Yes, the Englishman was very polite," he said. "All foreigners were killed and their bodies burnt so no bones In his confession after tor-

ture. Dewhirst wrote that he was a CIA agent, recruited at the age of 12, and that his father was also a CIA agent whose cover was as the headmaster of a Newcastle secondary school. Dewhirst also said he attended a CIA school in Loughborough with a sign on the gate saying "Loughbor-ough Town Council High-

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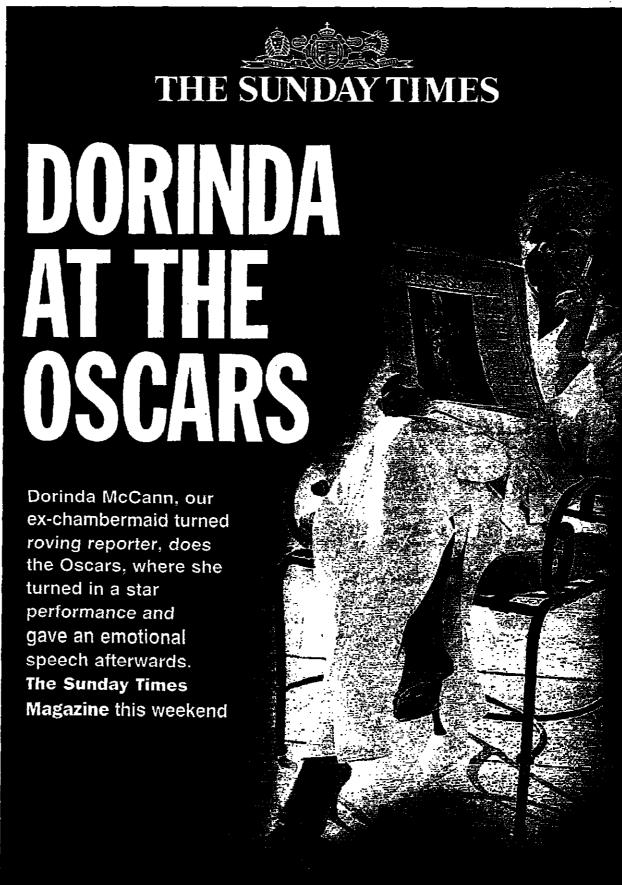
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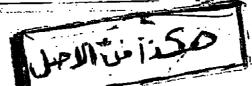


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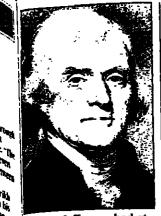
THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



WORLD IN BRILE so-Chinese tier pact

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(homas Jefferson: had at east one child with slave

rights for 160 threatens Jefferson reunion FROM BEN MACINTYRE

IN Washing IE annual family gathering Thomas Jefferson's de Thomas Jefferson's de Thomas Will include blacks mell as whites for the first well as whites for the first well as whites for the first we next month, but a new pute is brewing over whether the black claimants should the black claimants should be black claimants. formally grafted on to the sidential family tree.

he debate over whether Jef-In suit, which came to a solution of the solut IA tests showed that at some of the children beging to Jefferson's slave, by Hemmings, was proba-fathered by America's d President

he Monticello Associaa group of 700 officially nowledged Jefferson deodants, holds a gathering n May at his Monticello es-in Virginia, and this year organisation has invited re than 20 black people de-- 4 ided from the President's := cubine.

he invitation was made :: y after Lucian Truscott IV, un-generation white Jefferdescendant, threatened to te the entire Hemmings nch of the clan to gateth the party on May 15. Ir Truscott said that, unthe black group is formal-- ecognised, he will ask all

white claimants to take - . A tests to prove their own ... _ms. "It's racist on its face : : : ll black people their oral ory is not enough, despite ...A. while automatically be ing the oral history of tes like me," he said.

Beijing spy 'stole all US nuclear secrets'

From Ian Brodie in Washington

passed to Beijing, although an

Energy Department official said this remained uncertain.

Experts said the data would

be useful to any nuclear power

trying to copy US designs. The

information contained the "leg-

acy" codes used to design nu-

clear weapons, analyse nuclear test results and evaluate the

safety of warheads. In addi-

tion. Mr Lee allegedly trans-ferred the "input" data for spe-

Ray Kidder, a nuclear westp-

ons physicist at another labora-

tory, said that, taken together.

the legacy code and the input

data were the equivalent of a scientific blueprint that could

give a complete plan of the ex-

Another scientist said that

the information was not by it-

self sufficient to produce an ex-

act copy of an American weap-on, but it could be of considera-

ble value to a country such as China, which has signed the

nuclear test ban treaty and re-

lies on computer simulations

to upgrade its nuclear arsenal.

gating whether Mr Lee passed

information to Beijing in the 1980s, enabling China to design a replica of America's

most advanced nuclear war-

head, the W-88 used in Trident

submarines. He was sacked

from Los Alamos seven weeks

ago, but denies wrongdoing.

ing twist to the case, his wife,

Sylvia, a former secretary at

Los Alamos, was identified

this week as having been an FBI informant. She helped

agents to monitor Chinese sci-

entists visiting the laboratory.

In a potentially embarrass-

The FBI was already investi-

plosive part of the weapon.

"reverse-engineered" to

cific warheads.

VIRTUALLY every nuclear weapon in the United States was compromised when a scientist suspected of spying for China transferred huge amounts of data from a secret computer system to an unclassified network, according to a

report published yesterday.
The transfers, discovered only last month, add a vast new dimension to the investigation of nuclear spying during which, according to the chairman of a congressional committee, the Chinese stole "the crown jewels" of American's nuclear arsenal and continue to do so. China denies

the charges. Yesterday's report, in The New York Times, contained allegations that were said to have outraged politicians and intelligence officials. President Clinton ordered Bill Richardson, his Energy Secretary. who oversees nuclear weap-ons laboratories, to "get to the

bottom of it". Officials said the transfers were made to a widely accessible computer network by Wen Ho Lee, 59, who was born in Taiwan and has worked since 1978 at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico.

The report said that millions of lines of computer code, giving details of how America's nuclear warheads worked, were downloaded four to five years ago from a computer system that is open only to scientists with top-level security clearance at Los Alamos.

There was said to be evidence that the files were accessed by someone improperly using a password after they were placed in the unclassified network American officials



Duke in Baton Rouge, where he

Political dinosaur revisits Southern swamp

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN AMITE, LOUISIANA

PREHISTORIC political creature has re-emerged from Louisiana's swamps in a last effort to win power, his message as hoary and gnarled as a mangrove root.

David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, perennial candid ate and torch-bearer for America's white supremacists, is running for a House of Representatives seat. Some 50 people — mostly men, all white — have assembled in a humid hut on the edge of the bayou to hear an augry sermon that might have wasted back from the Deep South of four decades ago.

This country was founded by white Christians. Our heritage is at stake. We're being outvoted and outnumbered in our own communities ... people have been raped, mur-dered, assaulted, robbed, Blacks commit ten times more violent crimes than whites, 1,000 per cent more rapes," Mr Dwke rants, as his audience nods and grambles.

Outside, fireflies statter among rows of rusty pickups with "Dake for Congress" bumper stickers: decrepit



vehicles carrying decrepit, second-hand thoughts. Mr Duke, 48, is a hangover from the past with no hope of winning, according to opponents. Yet his candidacy has sent a nasty shiver through the Republican Party, already embarrassed at having to fill a seat vacated by Robert Livingston, the House Speaker-designate who resigned during the Lewinsky scandal over sexual "indiscretions".

Louisiana's election rules, a broad field of candidates, and Mr Duke's lingering appeal, mean that be cannot be ignored. Seven Republicans. of whom he is one, are competing for the seat along with two Democrats. If, as expected, none wins an outright majority in Saturday's primary vote, then the two frontrunners will go through to a runoff on May 29; if the Republican vote is sufficiently fragmented, there is an outside chance that Mr Duke may slip through.

That prospect, however distant, is sufficiently scary to have persuaded the Republican Congressional Committee in Washington to commission a private survey to see if it should step in and endorse another candi-

date. Polls show Mr Duke running behind three other Republicans including a wealthy ophthalmologist from New Orleans with the alarming name, given recent US history, of Monica Monica. The front-runner is David Treen, a party veteran and former Governor of Louisiana

r Duke's hopes are pinned firmly on the hardly flattering assumption that those who support him will be too ashamed to admit it to pollsters. In 1991 he drew 55 per cent of the white vote when running for governor, after grabbing nearly 60 per cent of white votes in a Senate poll the year before. A huge turnout of black vot ers scuppered both attempts and his star has faded since, but Dukedom remains a dark and overgrown corner of Louisiana, fed on a rich compost of paranoia and prejudice.

In an autobiography. My Awakening, published earlier this year, Mr Duke called for an Aryan revolution and offered the familiar mixture of Holocaust denial and plans for re-



Supporters are assumed to be too ashamed to confess to polisters

newed racial segregation. But it is his simpler philosophy, in which eve-ry complaint is hung on the error of racial mixture, that has his Amite listeners punching the fetid air. The Colorado massacre: "Diversity is what caused this shooting." Kosovo: "What about the invasion of Mexicans? Bring the troops home to pro-tect our American borders." (Applause) The media: "They try to make you feel guilty for your white Europe an heritage." The future: "Whites will be a minority . . ." (Yells).

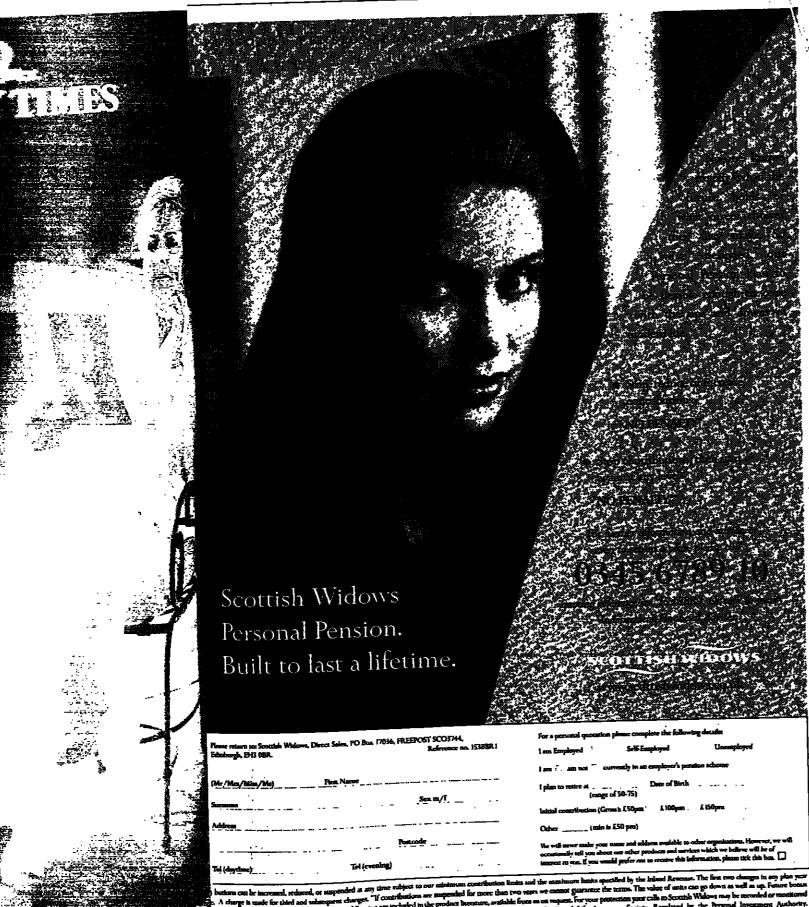
ff the podium Mr Duke cuts a different, more plau-sible figure. His talk of tax cuts, the rights of gun ownership and the decline of Christian morality could come from any mainstream conservative, a fact that brings mainstream conservatives out in a cold sweat. "Duke is trying to hijack the legitimate conservative agen-da," the right-wing Washington Times said this month.

The former Klan chief, the object of a deportation order from Britain in 1978 when he came to address racist rallies and organise resistance to non-white immigration, is equally careful to finesse his past, sometimes describing his sheet-wearing days as a "mistake", but more often as a "thrill" of which he is not ashamed.

After 25 years of active polities, nine attempts for office and only one success a decade ago when he briefly held a seat in the state legislature, Mr Duke says that this election will be his last. "We can win," he tells the audience.

It fits this conspiratorial fantasy world to imagine that outside the hut exists a vast but silent body of Duke supporters who share the hate but will hide their views until polling day. "We always fly below the radar," says Ray Anderson, Duke's cam-paign manager. Alongside the highway running

back to New Orleans, rotting trunks of broken trees loom out of a primeval mid. Extinction may be on hand, but here dinosaurs still roam.



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Nato regrets bombing error

Blair says atrocities by Milosevic far outweigh few Serb casualties, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

NATO offered its regrets yesterday after a laser-guided bomb lost its target "lock" and fell to the ground, killing up to 20 civilians and demolishing 50 homes 300 metres from the intended hit, a Yugoslav army

However, as the latest example of "collateral damage" gave Belgrade the opportunity to accuse Nato of a bombing outrage, Tony Blair went on the offensive, denouncing President Milosevic for his deliberate targeting of civilians. The Ministry of Defence joined in the damage-limitation exercise by distributing a map setting out the atrocities committed by the Serbs against ethnic Alba-

nians in Kosovo. The Prime Minister expressed regret over the deaths in the southern Ser-

bian town of Surdu-6 It would lica, but he told the House of Commons that Nato was takbe moral ing "every single precaution we possioutrage if bly and reasonably can" to avoid civilian deaths. It would Nato had be "the ultimate moral outrage" if Britain and the othjust stood er members of Nato stood aside while aside ³ Serb forces committed "appalling atroc ities" and raped

er be able to have children". Mr Blair told MPs: "We simply cannot know yet how many people Milosevic has butchered inside Kosovo, but I warn the House that it is going to be a very considerable number.

women "so badly they will nev-

The bomb that went astray should have hit the military barracks, which the Serbs claimed had been empty of troops for weeks, with laserguided precision. Other Nato bombs on the same raid hit the

Defence sources said that the pilot of the Nato bomber, believed to have been an American F15E, had only seconds to decide whether to drop the

Although he needed to have a clear sight of the barracks be-

fore releasing the bomb down the laser beam reflected off the target, they said it was possible that dense smoke from the other weapons that had been dropped had obscured the target at the last moment, cutting off the laser link.

The only other explanation, the sources said, was that the guidance seeker head on the bomb was faulty.

The bomb, believed to have been a 2,000lb deep-penetration weapon, hit a residential area. Witnesses said the Nato raid was between 12.10pm and 12.30pm on Tuesday.

Rescue workers said it was difficult to count the dead because most had been "blown to bits". At the town's hospital, medical staff were trying to reconstruct the bodies. Miroslav Stojiljkovic, May-

or of the town of 15,000 people, esti-mated that 600 houses had suffered some dam-Bulldozers huge mounds of concrete rubble to help the search for survivors. Many of the victims in the town, which is about 200 miles south of Belgrade, were in their cel-

lars waiting for the

Nato raids to finish. Other laser-guided bombs have also gone astray during the first five weeks of Operation Allied Force, although comparatively few of the thousands of bombs dropped have missed their target completely. In one of the earliest raids, a bomb dropped by an RAF Harrier GR7 lost its way but fell on open ground

The Prime Minister said that, despite the civilian deaths, he remained as determined as ever to continue the bombing campaign. The 20 deaths bring to near-

ly 100 the number of civilians officially acknowledged by Nato to have been killed. Between 65 and 75 Albanian refugees were killed when a convoy near Dakovica was hit, ten

CENTRAL **DEATH AND** BELGRADE **DESTRUCTION AFTER** HUNGARY **35 NIGHTS OF** City Hall BOMBING ROMANIA Federal Government Staff HO, Communic CROATIA and Industry Ministries BELGRADE **BOSNIA-**Targets 70 Aircraft on ground: HERZEGOVINA Airfields: Aircraft hangars: .0 Sam missile sites: Oil refineries: 16 Fuel storage depots: Road and railway bridges: 25 All rail lines into Kosovo cut 3 out of 8 roads into Kosovo cut Ammunition dumps:one fifth severely damaged MONTENEGRO Barracks: one fifth attacked Army Headquarters and other 🗔 Factories (Serb claim): ن. ب <u><</u>7 Transmitters (Serb claim): Fixed communications sites: Worst incidents of Nato bombing killing civilians Massacres ... Velica Krusa Massacres at izbica, Dakovica, Klina and Former Yugoslav Republic of Sources: Ministry of Defence and Nato. Many targets have been struck more than once

ing a bridge near Leskovac, and 12 died after another bomb went astray at Aleksinac. The civilian death toll

claimed by the Serbs, and supported by the Russians, is higher, but there is no way of validating their figures. They claim that more than 500 civilians have been killed since the bombing began, including ten in a residential area of Pristi-

na, the Kosovo capital. The Serbs also claimed that 55 civilians were killed on the railway bridge near Leskovac, after initially reporting only ten. There are increasing reports

of injuries caused by the dropping of cluster bombs. Both the US Air Force and the RAF have been striking "soft targets", such as concentrations of troops and vehicles, with cluster munitions. There are reports of unexploded cluster bombs lying around in Kosovo. In a report from Pristina. in the Los Angeles Times yesterday, Rade Grbic, a surgeon at the town's main hospital, said that children had been playing with cluster bombs and had suffered appalling in-

He was quoted as saying: "I

have been an orthopaedist for 15 years, working in a crisis region where we often have injuries, but neither I nor my colleagues have ever seen such horrific wounds as those caused by cluster bombs. The limbs are so crushed that the only option is amputation."

The report said that 300 to 400 people, about half of the civilian, had been treated in Pris-

tina's hospital for cluster bomb injuries since the Nato air campaign began on March 24. However, the Yugoslav Air Force has also been dropping Russian-made cluster bombs from low-flying aircraft. It is likely that some unexploded munitions are Yugoslav.

Letters, page 23 Books, page 40

Sunny herald heavier attacks

By MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Milosevic was given a dear warning yesterday that improving weather would enable Nato to launch an overwhelming number of airstrikes.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said that summer weather would make a buge difference to Nato's air campaign. "And summer is a coming." he said.

The weather forecasters had been wrong, he said. Earlier this week they predicted clear skies over Yugoslavia, yet it had been Bulgaria that enjoyed good weather. He said, however, that Yugoslavia "is a country in the South of Europe which has good summers".

The importance of the weather became apparent yesterday when clearer skies brought an intensification of raids. Southern districts of Belgrade were hit in several hours of bombing overnight. The state-run Tanjug news agency described it as a "massive onslaught". Nato bombers also hit

military targets in Montenegro, including an army communications relay station on Mount Croi Vrh and a Yugoslav airbase near Podgorica, the capital.

As the bombers flew over the Montenegrin port of Bar, which is to be the subject of a Nato oil embargo blockade. Yugoslav navy warships

opened fire. Other targets included two bridges, two fuel dumps, an army training centre, an army barracks in Belgrade and an army command post in Kosovo.

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Congress disputes Clinton's right to wage war on Serbs

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

ARGUMENTS broke out on Capitol Hill yesterday over the costs of military action and President Clinton's authority to wage war and deploy ground troops, as the House of Representatives prepared to cast its first votes on the crisis

since the air campaign began. Two proposals — one demanding that the US declare war on Yugoslavia, the other that it pull out - were expect-ed to fail, but a third, that would require Mr Clinton to obtain congressional approval before the deployment of ground forces, was gaining momentum with the backing of Republican leaders.

"This will hamstring our troops in the field," Congressman Martin Frost said as fellow Democrats issued a warning that such a move could even prevent the deployment of Apache helicopters against Serb units in Kosovo.

The White House found itself in the unexpected position of arguing that Congress was preparing to spend too much after Republicans said they were ready to double an emergency cost package but tacked on a number of vote-winning military expenses not directly related to the Kosovo conflict.

Mr Clinton told legislators

that he opposed Republican plans to double the \$5.9 billion (£3.7 billion) in emergency funding already requested to cover the operation's costs until September 30, but said he would accept a larger package

including a military pay rise.

Congress should "resist the temptation" to add other military costs to the bill since this could cause a critical delay, Mr Clinton said.

Democrats accused Republicans of trying to use the mili-tary funding issue for domestic political advantage. "We're for winning this war, not ending it." a White House spokesman said.

The two resolutions calling for a full declaration of war or a troop pull-out were tabled by Tom Campbell, a Republican, citing the long-disputed US War Powers law which requires the President to obtain congressional approval to keep troops in combat for more than two months.

"We are at war and Congress has not declared war and that is unconstitutional," Mr Campbell said.

Under US law only Congress can declare war, but only the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, can order in troops.

Woman dies in protest explosion

Athens: The Revolutionary Nuclei group said it had carried out a bomb attack, in which a woman was killed because of "the Nato murder of civilians" in Yugoslavia (John Carr writes). The explosion at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday night, hours before Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, was to open an economic conference there, comes amid hostili to Britain over its role in the action against Belgrade. Salonika, railworkers blocked a train taking British military vehicles to Macedonia.

Refugees flee to Italy Gioia del Colle: More than 4.000 illegal immigrants fleeing the Kosovo conflict have landed on southern

Italian shores in the past five days and the authorities reception centres for the new exodus of refugees to the Apulian region are close to collapse (John Phillips writes). On Tuesday alone, 1,400 people, most of them women and children, were dropped on the Salentine coast from speedboats and other small craft piloted by Albanian and Italian smugglers.

Kuwaitis raise £8.3m

Kuwait City: A live Kuwait telethon has raised E8.3 million for Kosovo refugees, Yussef al-Samit, the Information Minister, said. Several celebrities appeared on the telethon, dubbed "the day of solidarity with the people of Kosovo", to talk about the plight of Muslim Albanians in Kosovo. Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah has donated \$1 million (£637,000) on behalf of the al-Sabah family, and four planes loaded with urgent relief supplies were dispatched to Albania. (AFP)

Turkish troops parade



Ankara: A Turkish soldier mans a gun on a tank during a parade at Mamak Garrison on the outskirts of the capital yesterday by a unit that has been readied to take part in a possible Nate: peacekeeping mission Kosovo. Some 1,000 soldiers supported by armoured personnel carriers and tanks are Standby, the military is Turkey has 11 Fl6s participating in the a campaign against Yugoslavia (AP)

Fuel smugglers thrive

Sofia: Bulgarian motorists are enjoying a fucrative trade in smuggling petrol to Serbia as Nato considers an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. Customs officials at the Bregovo crossing said about 25 tonnes of petrol a day is crossing the border in car tanks, concealed cans and soft-druk bottles. Serbs pay \$1 (62p) per litre for the fuel, which costs about 44 cents (27p) in Bulgaria. (AP)

Tom Wal

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is Government.

Archie the Chief to setback for Nato, which had setback for Nato, which had speed he was the cornerstone of a new faction in Belgrade that looked favourably upon some form of foreign intervention force in Kosovo. inc heals for force in Kosovo.

The Yugoslav Information

The Yugosiav union make the bren wings Ministry said that Mr Drasko-Ja been wrong Ministry said that Mr Draskuand been wrong here vices views had been "in contraarther this best vice views had been "in contraarther this best vices views had been "in contraarther to the property views had been "in contraarther this best vices views had been "in contra-Minister and one of the mental On the said that the far-Right vic's socialists, the far-Right vice stocialists, the communists of Mr Mi-The Decay in and the communists of Mr Mi-

and the communities of the commu prought at were behind the dismissar, were behind the dismissar, were behind the dismissar, were behind the dismissar.

In a hastily convened press on a hastily convened press of the second pressure of the second p hoes of both bers of his Serbian Renewal Movement had resigned in the wake of his dismissal.

Aides to the hearded povel-

Aides to the bearded novelist said that the news of his sacking had reached his party

Tom Walker on the sacking of Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime

headquarters only through the official news agency, Tanjug.
That's the way it is," said one. admitting that she feared for Mr Draskovic's safety.

Minister

The regime's swift response leaves Mr Draskovic where most observers felt he was most naturally placed - in opposition. In his recent outburst he told Serbs that they had no chance of fighting off Nato. and had to face the reality of a foreign force, preferably under the UN flag, in Kosovo. He also blamed the state me-

dia for misleading the nation, although he tempered this with a heavy dose of anti-Nato rhetoric. Evidently it was not enough, and Mr Draskovic had been riding for a fall. What may have irked Mr Milosevic more than the suggestion that international that war crimes could have been committed in the province, and that a special commission should be set up to in-

Putting a brave face on the Draskovic dismissal, a spokes-man for Nato said that it demonstrated there was a split in Belgrade. "It is the price you pay in Belgrade for telling the truth. This regime does not tol-erate dissidence," he said.

Mr Draskovic courted trouble earlier in the airstrikes campaign, when he lambasted the killing of the newspaper editor Slavko Curuvija as a cow-ardly act. "Those who ordered and committed the murder have taken arms against Serbia more destructive than all the bombs of Nato. Let Slavko be the first and last victim of those who want to initiate a mad circle of fratricidal murder." Mr Draskovic said.

He accused Politika, the

pro-Milosevic newspaper, of inciting civil war and the liquidation of opponents. Mr Draskovic was first arrested in 1985 and jailed in 1991. Two years later he was savagely beaten and went on a hunger strike. He was not invited to troops could come into Kosovo the Rambouillet peace talks.



Richard Gere, the Hollywood actor, is mobbed by Kosovo Albanians yesterday as he tours the refugee camp at Brazde in Macedonia. During an unannounced visit, he was reminded by an 11-year-old child who had fled Serb atrocities that there are some things fame, money and good intentions cannot buy (Stephen Far'I want to see my Mummy'

rell writes). The star of Pretty Wom-an and champion of Tibetan rights dimbed out of his Oxfam Land Rover and asked Vlora Marevici, from Pristina: "Is there anything that you can ask me for that you need?" "I

again," replied the child without hesitation. Vlora, whose mother, Meylude, is believed to be trapped in Kosovo after sending the child ahead to the border with her grandmoth-

er, later sed she did know who she talking to the seemed to man". Aslewhat he hopechieve, the a said he plant meet Unitedions human officials. "Frow I can juste refugees k that people cout them abund

Refugees endure hours of misery as camps struggle to cope witlexous

MISERY has returned to the infa-MISERT nas returned to Albania border, where 65,000 ethnic Albanians were housed in squalid and in-sanitary conditions at the outset of

sanitary continuous an annual ago.

The the refugee crisis a month ago.

As more than 8,000 refugees As more user. Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in two days, the largest number for weeks, hundreds of Kosovan refugees were forced to sleep overnight in the open air because there were not Stephen Farrell sees a crisis unfolding as 8,000 turn up at Blace in two days

enough tents for them in the new transit camp being constructed on the buildozed site of the old Blace. Aid officials admit that between 400 and 500 refugees, including young children and elderly men and women, were left to sleep on plastic sheets and blankets.

They cannot be moved to the larger Brazde, Stenkovec and other camps nearby because those too are "bursting at the seams". Others slept under hastily erected blue plastic sheeting draped from the side of tents, which would be totally inadequate if it rained, which happens nearly every day. United Na-tions refugee workers gave a warn-ing that tension was rising in many of the camps, where people are

crammed in together.
"The security is getting worse every day because of the influx of refugees, the tents are squashed together and the sanitation is on the point of breakdown," said one UN refugee official.

On Monday 4,300 people arrived at the Blace crossing, north of the capital, Skopje, with many held there until 4am before space was found for them. Barely had this group been processed than another 3.000 to 4.000 arrived on one eightwagon train from Kosovo Polje and up to 20 buses. Two more buses and another 1,000 people arrived at

two other crossings. Aid workers planned to move 1.500 of the new arrivals in Brazde. the largest of the camps into new tents installed at Stenkovec. But they said Macedonia could not cope unless more people were evacuated to other countries. After queueing from 10am to

3am at the border before being admitted to the Blace camp, Sanie Krosa, 29, and her daughters Anita, two, and Donika, eight months, slept under open skies with no bread or milk. "I don't mind sleeping outside myself, but I am worried for my children," said Mrs Krosa, who left her home in Ferizaj a mgo and has spine interveieriod movingn village to: before beingon a bus to rder. "I am jund I have an I just wante survive amut of Kosovo

tieve Wills, igramme mr of Mercy Ci Internatiorhich managhe Blace canid: "Until wive more ter camp can takimore becan are at overcaty. It is a critation, an emincy."



Hay fever?

You don't

have to suffer

LOVERS of London's parks are

worried that the environment will be disturbed, even in some

Twenty per cent of Britons suffer from hav fever. From March to May tree pollens cause the allergy, but the season

peaks in June to July when grass pollen is abundant. From August to September weeds are the main cause of trouble. Hay fever mainly affects the eyes, nose and throat, causing sneezing, running eyes and blocked nose. However, hay

fever also makes patients feel rotten, so that, for instance, exam results are sabotaged, driving skills undermined and

work suffers. Contact lenses may no longer be wearable and

Antihistamines by mouth are the usual treatment of choice but they need to be taken prophylactically so that the

sleep may be lost.

attacks never develop.

or she started.

Anti-inflammatory drugs,

steroids in the form of nasal

sprays, should also be continued without a break for maximum effect. Nasal

decongestants may be useful,

but they can end up making the

patient feel worse than when he

The singers in the open-air

steroids in a nasal spray, which

can cause some inflammation.

However, help is at hand,

fever nasal spray is now

Rhinolast antihistamine hay

available over the chemist's

counter without prescription and offers some immediate

relief without the need for a

summer-long course of

concerts may not wish to use

cases destroyed, by the increasing number of open-air

concerts. These summer concerts coincide with the hav

fever season.



Dr Thomas Stuttaford eports on National owel Cancer Week; he hay fever season; 🚰 he profile of a nurderer; snake enom and strokes; nd drug advances or MS sufferers

Thi is no im to be quamish

traditional estalent ducation at Eton Dxford. Arly sign of his diver in-terestss that while at Q he achiev first in mathematicds before 1g on to obtain a s a classica Greats. He servetthe Black ch in the 1914-18 Viterwards ming a biochemismbridge later Professor offics at Uniity College London

Hale's interest in the ics. and hinse of humour, seim well whe developed cancer of rectum and needed a comy. He assured the won a long, humorous pcabout his cancer and susted that now, after hisostomy, he was godlikio now I am like he third two-facJanus/The only god wres his anus".

most A comy is the artificial ong in the abdomen some patients with cectal carcinoma. pmmon fortun: an increasingly smalleumber, need if the UK they hto have their rectum anus removed.

On Iday this week Testell. the Mer of State for Publith. launch National Bowellcer Week, mised by Colon Caloncern aupported by ten mancer chas at the House of Ons. Each on the United Kirl 90 new pits discover that tave cancerne colon and rectu

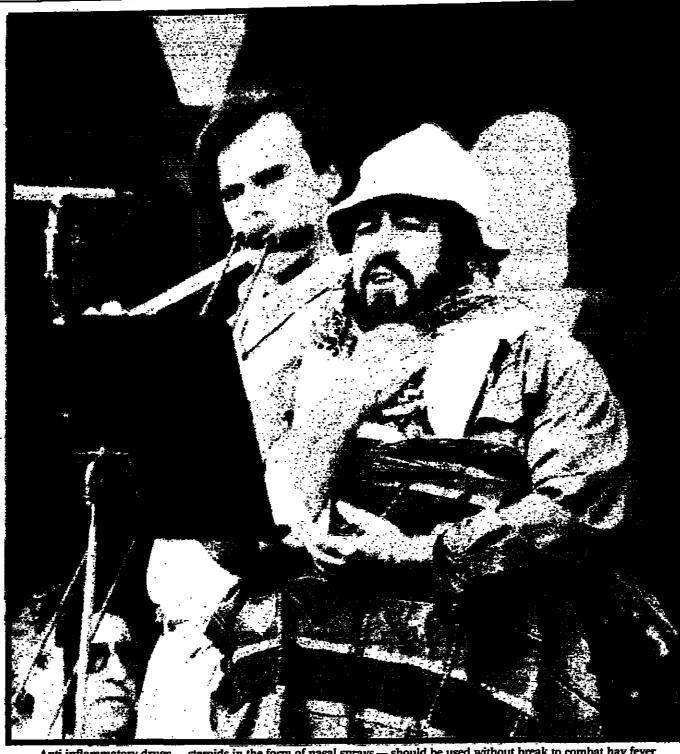
Marses are detected bedeople haike J.B.S. Haldansed blood heir motions. Theing does nave to be profusefaldane explained: "I noticed I was passing blood / (only a few drops, not a flood)." The blood may be mixed with the motions, may appear as flecks on them, there may be bleeding at the time of going to the lavatory (as with Haldane), or, if the cancer is high in the intestinal tract, the faeces may be black, slightly shiny and sticky as the blood has been semi-digested during

Colo-rectal cancer is also one of the causes of passing mucus with the motions and can produce a sensation that even after defectation the rectum is not empty. Other sugges-

tive symptoms are abdominal pain or discomfort, particularly lower abdominal pain that lasts for more than two weeks, unexplained weight loss or anaemia — usually obvious because of severe tiredness. A persistent (once again, for more than a fortnight) change in bowel habit such as constipation or diarrhoea - needs to be investigated. If Haldane was now researching into diet as he did when at Cambridge, or into genetics as at Universi-

ty College London, his work could well have been applicable to his own disease. Research by Dr Ian Tomlinson, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, suggests that about 5 per cent of colorectal cancers are the result of five or ten single genes; in about 25 per cent of other cases a patient's genetic background may increase his or her vulnerability to other risk factors, including

diet, which could lead to the cancer. We should all be eating plenty of foods rich in fibre and starch and at



Anti-inflammatory drugs - steroids in the form of nasal sprays - should be used without break to combat hay fever

least four or five portions a day of fruit

and vegetables.
Dr Tomlinson is looking for 1,000 pairs of brothers and sisters who have either had, or have, bowel tumours, benign or malignant. Bowel cancers usustart as premalignant adenomatous polyps. Anyone who has had a bowel turnour and has a brother or sister can help in this potentially life-saving research by getting in contact with him. It will not be unpleasant: just a blood test collected in the patient's neighbourhood and a few questions.

To reduce the risk of cancer of the colon and rectum, we should cut down on fat, choose lean cuts of meat and more frequently choose poultry or fish rather than red meat. We should stay slim, remain physically active and drink in moderation. Recent research has also shown that aspirin may reduce the incidence of colon cancer and it is likely that so too may the new anti-rheumatic drugs, the COX-2 inhibitors.

Haldane wrote: "I wish I had the voice of Homer / To sing of rectal carcinoma / Which kills a lot more chaps, in fact, / Than were bumped off when Trov was sacked." Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK. Most cases can be treated successfully if they are detected early. Don't panic. The symptoms are more likely to be from irritable bowel syndrome, piles or diverticular disease than bowel cancer. But whatever your age, if you have persistent symptoms, see your doctor.

● Dr Ian Tomlinson: 0171-269 2884; Colon Cancer Concern Infoline: 0171-381 4711.

Inside the mind of Jill Dando's killer

THE murder of Jill Dando has led to widespread discussion about the psyche of someone who can carry out such a ruthless act.

It has been suggested that the murder was typical of a contract killing. Hitmen are usually psychopaths or, in more PC terms, suffering from an antisocial personality disorder. They are indifferent to the laws and customs of society. Among other characteristics, they have no remorse, are indifferent to the consequences of their action, act on impulse, cannot bear to be thwarted and, if thwarted, they often become violent.

Original reports that the killer walked coolly away from his victim would fit a diagnosis of psychopathy. Hitmen usually plan their actions with care and, although psychopaths may act with a reckless disregard in some circumstances, a contract killer would be unlikely to be wandering up and down the street for an hour before the crime. And unless he knew when Jill Dando was due to return, he might have had to loiter in the

public gaze for a long time. Another suggestion is that the person is a stalker. In medical parlance, somebody who is a stalker is suffering from erotomania, one of the subtypes of delusional disorder. They are convinced that they are not only in love with the person, often someone in the public eye, but that this love is reciprocated, or would be, if only they could get to know each other better. Hence they stalk and try to contact the object of their desire by telephone, sometimes making hundreds of calls a day, or

bombard them with letters. All is comparatively well unless the stalker also has features of another subtype of delusional behaviour - the jealous type. These people, often on inadequate evidence or no evidence at all, will be convinced that their subject is being unfaithful. People who are deluded in this way are so determined in their obsession

that no amount of rational argument will overcome it. Occasionally, this "infideli-" is so upsetting that it may induce either suicidal or homicidal intentions. Doctors have the difficult task of exploring this possibility which, when

a matter of urgency. A small advance in the understanding of some types of violence has emerged from the Section of Cognitive Psychopharmacole gy at the Maudsley Hospital in South London. New brain imaging has revealed structur al differences in the brains aggressive offenders with mental disorders, bringing research closer to finding biological basis for violence in the mentally disturbed.

Scans reveal differences in key areas, such as the hippocampus and amygdala These two regions of the brain are involved in emotion and are smaller in people with a ...

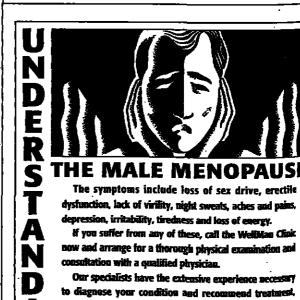
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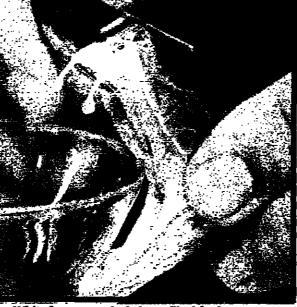
Viper venom helps stroke sufferers

SHAKESPEARE achieved a rather greater reputation as a poet 350 years before Haldane. Few people of my generation can have completed their education without learning the Second Witch's speech in Macbeth: "Fillet of a fenny snake, / In the cauldron boil and bake" which, as the witch says, makes for a charm of powerful trouble.

Now a British tropical medicine expert, Dr Allistair Reid. who learnt about snakebites in the paddy fields of Malaysia. has been extracting that powerful charm from the venom of the Malaysian pit viper.

The licence for the purification of viper venom was origi-nally held by Guinness, the brewers, but now belongs to Knoll pharmaceuticals. Venom is still used to make antivenoms, but is also finding a new use. Ancrod, a blood-thinning and anti-clotting substance that breaks down fibrinogen in human beings, is extracted from the venom.

Ancrod may become invaluable when treating ischaemic



White fangs: a snake being milked for its venom

strokes-80 per cent of which are caused by a clot. Ancrod prevents further clotting, stimulates the dissolution of existing clots, and improves the blood flow in tissues affected by the stroke, thus restoring oxygen to damaged tissue more quickly.

Knoll is even more excited

about snakes than the witch in Macbeth. The company can-not be certain that Ancrod will ever be on the chemist's shelves, but it is sufficiently convinced to have invested in a new snake farm so as to expand the breeding and expansion of its stock of Malaysian

MS drug reduces brain tissue loss by nearly half

tissue in the brain atrophies. Interferon beta-la and interferon beta-lb. trade names Avonex and Betaferon, are seemingly near magic drugs in its treatment: they reduce the frequency and severity of relapses in patients with relapsing/remitting MS. in which the patient is recurrently affected but later makes a partial recovery. Avonex also slows the progress of disability in relapsing/remitting MS, and Betaferon in reducing the frequency and severity of relapses, as well as slowing the progress of the disease in secondary MS. At a recent conference in Toronto of the

American Academy of Neurology, re-search workers from the Mellen Centre at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, presented details of a study which showed that the rate of brain-tissue loss during the second year of treatment with Avonex was reduced by 55 per cent. The Cleveland scientists have co-operated with radiologists from the University of Colorado and together they have shown that brain atrophy continues in MS patients even when they have only mild to moderate disability. It can occur before other symptoms of multiple sclerosis are detectable, and brain tissue loss continues even when the disease is in clini-

cal remission. During the first year of treatment with Avonex there was no difference between those who were having treatment and those on a placebo.

But while beta-interferons offer hope to the tens of thousands of MS sufferers, cost has determined that it is rationed; it is prescribed only for those with definite criteria. Even in the earlier stages of the disease patients, very reasonably, want medication that gives the best chance of preserving their central nervous system.

• Multiple Sclerosis Society Helpline: 0308-800 8000

Before your next visit to the dentist you might want to chew on this.

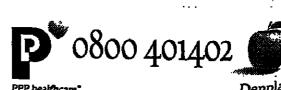
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Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington: once, when she was explaining to President Reagan the stance that America should take on an issue, Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, slipped her a note saying: "Margaret, you're talking too much"

ret was positive: there was absolutely no side to this woman. She treated officials like fully fledged human beings who (at that stage of her premiership) were allowed their say. Foreign Office flannel, you learnt quickly, was unwelcome. As you talked the electric blue eyes bored into you as if probing for insincerities or fuzzy thinking. I liked the way she preferred plain speaking, even when she simplified things outrageously, and admired her "can-do" style. If you made your point with conviction and could prove you were right, she would take the argument while avoiding any appearance of doing so. Watching her in action it struck me that she was composed of two vital elements: strong passions and a sharp intelligence. The trickwas to bring the two together.

Sometimes she would say to me, in tones of reproof: "George, you look tired!" I longed to reply: "That's because I am." Later I noticed how often she said the same to others. Sometimes her commiseration extended even unto her ministers. In the middle of the talks on the future of Rhodesia, Lord Carrington (then Foreign Secretary) went to secure her agreement to a crucial point. It we had flown in that morning

from the ends of the earth. She listened while Carrington made his case, and we steeled ourselves for the usual battle. When he had finished all she said was: "You both look exhausted. Have you had lunch?" We hadn't, "Come upstairs and have a bite. The servants have gone but I'll make you scrambled eggs." Keener to secure her agreement than to savour her eggs, Carrington declined. The solicitude then evaporated while the point was thrashed out mercilessly. and finally agreed. Carrington took me off to a late lunch at

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White's, by way of celebration. As a minister I was to see that there was another psychology at work in all this talk of other people's tiredness. What she was saying was that you were a man, she was a woman, you were a junior, she was Prime Minister, and yet, unlike you, she was never tired. Though she rarely looked it. with her blue clothes and pink. głowing skin, like a Barbara Cartland confection, this of course was untrue. She was often worn out. You could tell when she needed sleep be-

Tories and the country all realised that it was time for Margaret Thatcher to step down cause, like humbler mortals in rorists, and it was she who a similar state, she talked too spoke warmly of the services much. One person who was alto peace and reconciliation of

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lowed to point out this self-evi-dent truth was Denis Thatch-er. A model political consort, though not lacking views of his own (they were uncannily close to John Wells's "Dear Bill" letters), he never intervened in policy discussions, reserving his authority for strategic moments. In the middle of an endless discussion over whisky sodas at 1 or 2am in Washington, Tokyo or Bonn, when Carrington and I were aching for sleep, Denis would suddenly announce "Bed. Margaret!", like a publican calling time. And to bed she would go.

In international meetings the compulsive talking could be an embarrassment. During a meeting with President Reagan, who was neither as articulate nor as well briefed as herself, Thatcher was explaining at length the line America should be taking, while Reagan sat listening, his jar of gum-gums on the table, smil-

ing his screen smile. All at once Thatcher shut up. Surprised at the sudden silence. I at Carrington, who passed me a note he had slipped in front of her. It read: 'Margaret, you're talking too much." It is hard to imagine any minister but him saying it, or Thatcher reacting as she did.

When Carrington and Willie Whitelaw left the his Star Wars plans, while giv-Cabinet and she became more confident, not to say autocratic, no one would have dared. My experience as a diplo-

mat, then an MP, led me to form my own conclusions about our foreign policy under Thatcher, The common view that she despised the Foreign Office and persistently disregarded its advice was largely myth -- one later to be encouraged and exploited by Thatcher herself. While ensuring that she was portrayed as being at permanent loggerheads with her diplomats, in reality she went quietly along with almost every recommendation on every big decision on foreign policy that arose.

It was Thatcher who said you never negotiated with ter-

Robert Mugabe, the Marxist and ex-terrorist leader, after he had become the first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. In Hong Kong it was Thatcher who opened up the question of the post-1997 future of the colony with the Chinese Government, even though she had brandished the 1841 treaties during a visit to Tokyo to prove that Victoria Island belonged to us in perpetuity. And it was she who signed the agreement with China giving Hong Kong back to them

three years later. In the Middle East it was she who agreed to the European Community's policy of opening a dialogue with the PLO. More talking to terrorists. It was she who agreed to a leaseback arrangement over the Falklands with Argentina, whose rejection by Parliament was to lead to war. Sedulously disseminated rumours that she had been against the propo-

sal all along made no difference. The fact is she endorsed it, when she could have stopped it in "No, no, no!"

Then there was Thatcher's stance on communism. In the Cold War she was not a goad on American policy, but a restraint. The Iron Lady spent astonishing much time prevailing on President Reagan to tone down

> ing the impression that she stood shoulder to shoulder with him on every East-West issue. And when Reagan struck out on his own, stumbling towards a ban on all nuclear weapons in his meeting with Gorbachev at Reykjavík, which in the unlikely event of an agreement would have left East and West disarmed and the world free for Saddam Hussein and his ilk, she was hor-

> As for Europe, it was she who signed the Single Europe-an Act and took Britain into the ERM on the advice of her Chancellor and Foreign Secretary, forbearing once again to say "No, no, no!" If the Cabinet was weighted against her, and



Margaret Thatcher with Denis and her daughter Carol

dependence were at stake, as she later claimed, why did she not resign? There can be little doubt that, had she been in office, she would have signed the Maastricht agreement, too, albeit under protest; and with the same opt-outs Major was to achieve. The one occasion on which she did not follow the diplomatic advice of the day -to accept the unification of Germany with as good a grace as we could as a fait accompli she was seen as dangerously out of touch with reality, a perception that had as much to do with her fall from power as the

Idolaters of Thatcher as the only reliable guardian of Britain's interests face a conundrum. How was she brought, time and again, to do her diplo-mats' bidding? Either she was not perspicacious enough to see when she was being led by the nose by her officials (assuming she was) and was insufficiently strong-willed to resist or she fell in with the "Foreign Office line" (say her Foreign Secretary's advice) because, as she was fond of saying in other contexts, there was no alternative.

As the 1987 election neared, my equivocal feelings about my future in politics grew. I did not see myself as an outstanding minister, not least because of a fatal inclination to see too many sides of a question. My real interests were cultural, and largely outside the reach of politicians. Uncertain which way to jump, I left things to the last moment. Just before the end of the campaign

take my re-election for grant-ed. Thatcher (I was told) did not understand the reasons for my resignation; had I tried to explain them to her, she would have understood even less.

A No 10 lunch confirmed my impression that things were on the slide. There were six of us, including the Foreign Secre-tary, Geoffrey Howe, and the historian Hugh Thomas. Her strained relations with Howe were common knowledge, but on this occasion her contemptuous attitude towards him astonished me. I do not know what shocked me most; the way she treated him or his docile reaction. We were talking of Europe and different economic models. The slightest deviation from the Thatcher line and Geoffrey was slapped down. He lowered his head, got on with his lunch, then came doggedly back, to be slapped down again. These were not abrasive arguments, but personal insults. When he hazarded a view about the workings of industry he was told that if he

In the fourth extract from his memoirs, George Walden describes how Parliament, the of the Right. MPs voted against her not just because she was endangering their chances of re-election, they threw her out because the conknew so much about it, why didn't he go to work there? stituency parties were losing faith in her, too. When I con-To speak to your Foreign Secretary in the way she did in sulted my constituency party officers on how to vote in the private would have been bad leadership election in a public enough. To do so in front of show of hands a majority came myself and an outsider was exout in her favour. Later I traordinary. She had reached talked to those who had supported her; in private three quarters said it was time for the stage when no one dared tell her that she couldn't treat her to go. My guess is that in Parliament, the party and the country the view was the same. people like that. I wondered that Howe did not excuse himself and leave the room. In the event, his revenge was more dramatic. Watching him knife

her in the back in his resigna-

tion speech in the Commons

not long afterwards was like

seeing a battered wife finally

Somehow the fact that she

had "lost it" communicated it-

self to the party at large. The

way she went - Heseltine's challenge and the subsequent

vote - was of limited impor-

tance. Her judgment was be-coming erratic, and sooner

rather than later she would

have had to go. That she was

toopled by a parliamentary ca-

bal against the general senti-

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♠ Extracted from Lucky George by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, E17.99; available to readers for £15, includ-ing p&p, from The Times Book-shop, 0990 134459

ment of the party is a fantasy

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I gave my secretary a letter to

Thatcher saying I was resign-ing my ministerial job "for fam-

ily and personal reasons", with

instructions to get it to No 10 on the evening of the close of

the polls, so as not to seem to

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Time for the Iron Lady to

office Denis seemed in higher spirits than ever, perpetually like a man who had just put down his first drink of the day. But his wife was a sad sight. From a distance she looked fine but close up, at cocktails or dinner, her mouth was pinched in a sort of purposeless determination, and her eyes had a faraway look, like an actress endlessly on the point of delivering her curtain speech. Watching her made me

think how easy it is for former Prime Ministers of the male sex to age gracefully, all of a piece, looking more and more distinguished with their balding pates, worldly-wise fea-tures and statesmanlike embonpoint.

Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well and was reaching the age where her over-immaculate hair set off the ravages of her face. The result was an eerie dissonance between age and vitality. She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the evening, after her umpteen-hour day, now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There



Goodbye to all that: Thatcher's last day at No 10 in 1991

was no arguing with her any more in fact it was impossible to talk to her. The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she didn't know she was doing it. One evening, at a buffet dinner with an East European Prime Minister when she was on a drink-fuelled high.

cle, a Permanent Under-Secre tary in our group suddenly got up and left. I too was aching to get away and used the excuse of going to the next room to replenish my wine. There I found the man drinking alone, muttering to himself savagely: "I can't stand it any more. I just can't stand it."

Like everyone who had seen her in her best days, when she was dragging a recalcitrant country behind her as a mother does a moping child, I feit a little sentimental about her. The most vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister we had had in decades had reached a premature anecdotage. The last time

I saw her was after I had announced that I was giving up my seat. She greeted me by gripping my hand, fixing me with her ancient mariner's eye, and saying with more regret than malice: "George, you've lost your soul." It was an uncomfortable moment. She had, after all, given me a chance in office. Somehow the chilled blue eyes made you feel like a lover who had unjustly abandoned her, and that she was right to chide you.

Menzies, Mandy and marriage

Labour's Scottish success could

benefit Ashdown's heir

t may come to be known as the Mandelson Effect. a formula whereby the addition of the words Peter Mandelson to any political speculation causes an immediate chemical reaction, a fizzing noise, lots of smoke and a powerful smell of rotten eggs.

A good example last week was the suggestion that Mr Mandelson had been brought in to advise Gordon Brown on the running of the Labour campaign in Scotland. Phew. what a stink! It was leapt on by rival parties as evidence that Downing Street was manipulating events north of the border. Charlie Whelan, an-other arch spin-doctor, reck-oned that Mr Mandelson had planted the story himself to show that he was back in favour, although the evidence for this was so thin that it seems to have been oxidised in

Now a few more particles of Mandelson have been scattered on to an already combustible amalgam of rumour and innuendo, which could blow up in the faces of the Liberal Democrats. According to Donald Macintyre's new biogra-phy of Mr Mandelson, a secret meeting took place in the Hampstead home of Lord Irvine of Lairg, while Labour was in opposition, to hammer out a long-term pact with the Lib Dems. It was attended by Tony Blair. Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Lord Irvine and.

possibly, Gordon Brown, for Labour, and Paddy Ashdown, Robert Ma-clennan, Archy Kirkwood and Lord Holme of Cheltenham for the Lib Dems. An accord designed to secure the centre ground of British politics was drawn up. It included a deal to consider voting reform at Westminster, for the parties to lay off each

other in the election campaign. and to form a coalition at Holyrood if Labour failed to secure an overall majority. As soon as the story flared

up, everyone turned and ran. Mr Dewar denied categorically that there had been any such deal. "I conducted no discussions with the Liberal Democrats nor have I any arrangements which predated this campaign," he said, though he did not deny that meetings had taken place. Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said he knew nothing about it. And Alex Salmond, for the Scottish National Party, dashed off a furious letter to Messrs Blair and Ashdown demanding to know whether the meeting had taken place and, if so, what had been agreed.

It now emerges that there was such a meeting, indeed there may have been more than one. But, according to the Lib Dems, it was about something else. The party's campaign director in Scotland, Michael Moore, MP, said the meetings were held only to discuss proportional representation, that they resulted in the so-called Cook-Maclennan agreement on voting reform, and this was a matter of public record. It had nothing to do with the Scottish party, which was independent; its policy was decided in Scotland not London. That was that.

I doubt if the explanation is

quite so innocent; the Mandelson Effect does not really work like that, and how Mr Moore can be so certain is not clear. The evidence would appear to run the other way. The Scottish campaign has indeed seen an absence of any real attacks by Labour against the Lib Dems, and, as the SNP challenge has faded, the idea of a coalition has become firmly embedded. That may not sound dramatic, but to have the strategy decided in London, and so far in advance, could affect not just the Lib Dems' status in a Scottish

The conventional wisdom thus far has been that Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Inverness West, is well ahead in the undeclared campaign to succeed Mr Ashdown. Mr Kennedy, who is at best lukewarm about closer co-operation with Labour, is said to have grassroots support and to command the backing of party activists. But in London, the odds have been altering steadily in favour of Menzies Campbell, MP for North East Fife, and a supporter of the alliance.

government, but the party's future direction, and the out-

come of its leadership contest.

The key influence here is no longer Mr Ashdown, but Tony Blair. Whatever the status of those meetings in Derry Irvine's house, it is no secret that the Prime Minister wants to cement a permanent relation-ship with the Lib

> a key component of his aim to canture the centre ground of British politics and hold it against Tory incursion for the next genera-tion. Co-opting the Lib Dems on to a key Cabinet com-mittee was one part of this. The chemistry between him and Mr Ashdown, who shared

Dems. He sees it as

the vision, was another. Whether Mr Blair will eventually agree to pay the ultimate price of proportional representation to secure the Lib Dems' long-term support remains to be seen, but he is bound to favour a Lib-Lab pact in a Scottish parliament. It is a sort of dry-run for what might some day be a reality at ¬ he fall in the SNP's

Linklater

fortunes has fatally undermined those on the Lib Dem Left, who at one time favoured a deal with the nationalists, and is likely to aid those like Mr Campbell who advocate a continuing alliance with Labour. The Lib Dems' salvation, say the strategists, does not lie in taking it to the Left, but in shoring up the centre ground. The under-standing with Labour may have to be more hard-nosed. but it will continue. Of course, all talk of a pact will be denied. particularly by the Scottish protagonists from both parties. But the deal is there, and it will be carried forward.

The only problem is the Mandelson Effect. It is so volatile that it can blow up just when you least expect it. It only takes someone to light the bunsen burner, give the test tube a couple of shakes, and the whole compound starts hissing and bubbling again.

comment@the-times.co.uk





Dr Toughlove

hen I lived in the United States in the 1980s, in the heyday of Thatcherism and Reaganomics, I knew a firebrand of a left-wing politician from Texas (yes, you can find any human oxymoron somewhere in America if you look hard enough). He had a characteristically colourful phrase for the futile, wishy-washy politics being advocated by centrist Southern Democrats such as Bill Clinton: "Folks in Texas know that there's nothing in the middle of the road except a white

line and a dead armadillo."

I thought about this remark in

Washington last Sunday, as I sat in the audience at one of President Clinton's famous "seminars" on the politics of the future, this one called The Third Way: progressive governance for the 21st century". Tony Blair was the principal supporting actor with Gerhard Schröder of Germany, Massimo D'Alema of Italy and Wim Kok of The Netherlands as guest stars. It was easy to sympathise with the cynicism expressed by my Texan friend, as the President lobbed ludicrously softball "questions" about "opportunity, responsibility and community" at the other four leaders, who smugly responded with long strings of clichés about technology, the social contract, globalisation and "the new Left's voyage of rediscovery".

But whereas cynicism is a perfectly healthy reaction to ideological fashions, and intellectual superiority helps to maintain the dignity of media commentators while simultaneously flattering their readers, the question that now seems worth asking is whether cynicism is an adequate response to a movement that has transformed the political world. Whatever may be said about the Third Way's intellectual content, leftish leaders now head six out of the seven main advanced capitalist countries and 13 of the 15 states of the European Union. Not even at the peak of the Conservative ascendancy in the late 1980s could the Right claim either the ideological unity or the global sway represented by the five leaders on the platform

in Washington on Sunday. As if to emphasise and confirm this global victory, the slogans of the Third Way are now being adopted by right-wing oppositions around the world. In Britain, the Tories may be tying themselves in knots as they try to disentangle themselves from the unpopular individualism. social Darwinism and market funor How I stopped worrying and learnt to love the Third Way

damentalism of the Thatcher years, but the Republicans in the United States seem to be making a much smoother transition to Clinton-style

rhetoric. Supporters of George W. Bush, the Republican front-runner for the presidency, now openly tout him as a "Third Way politician". His hard-right detractors deride his 'compassionate Conservatism" as exactly the kind of self-contradictory slogan that typifies the ideological vacuum of the Third Way. All right, I hear you say in us what all this

rhetoric means. Until last week, I would at this point have changed the subject or conveniently run out of space. But at Washington seminar I had a revelation. I think I began to underwhat the Third Way was about. I was struck by the contrast between the confident body language of these relaxed and good-humoured

politicians and the extraordinary caution of their slogans. These were carefully balanced to satisfy conflicting political passions and remove all offence -"freedom and fairness", "rights and responsibilities", "compassion and self-reliance", "economic opportu-nity and social justice", "global economy and local community".

Winning support, avoiding unnec-essary controversy and seeking compromise are obvious hallmarks of this new politics, but there is more to it than that. Mr Blair, Mr Clinton and the others in Washington did not get where they were by shrinking from political battles. They have all been pugnacious and successful political bruisers. Neither have they lacked intellectual self-confidence. On the contrary, the new Third Way leaders seem surprisingly certain that, with enough intelligence, effort and goodwill, it should be possible to solve or at least manage all the world's problems, from crime and unemployment in inner cities to massa-

As Mr Blair actually said at one point in Washington: "History does not set problems that humanity cannot solve." The others expressed the same basic view a little more circumspectly. In Herr Schröder's words, "the new politics is about discovering the right solutions not through ideology but through intelligent experimentation" or, as Mr Clinton put it more succinctly, "what we believe in is what works". As I listened to

these bold assertions, it dawned on me that the distinguishing feature of the new left-of-centre politicians is their extraordinary self-confidence. not the ideological timid-ity of which they often stand accused. It is true these people are ideologically rootless pragmatists who borrow shamelessly from their opand ideas. But this pragmatism does not necessarily re-

flect weakness. It is true that the Third Way's key selling point is that it tries to move beyond the contradictions of the old Left, which is politically unelectable, and the old Right, which is morally unacceptable. But when faced with a contradiction, there are two ways that a politician can respond.

The obvious way is to try to find a compromise that offers some sops to supporters of the two contradictory positions. This is the spineless kind of pragmatism, sometimes called "triangulation", of which new Left leaders, especially Mr Clinton, are usually accused: raise the minimum wage but leave more people without health insurance; ban a few sub-machineguns but do nothing about gun control; bomb Kosovo but don't risk a land invasion.

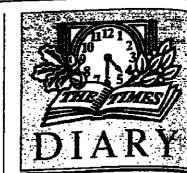
But there can sometimes be another, more imaginative way to deal with contradictory political demands. Instead of just striking a compromise between two opposing positions, it may be possible to

reconcile the contradictions; instead of simply splitting the difference, a political leader can look for practical measures, and ultimately perhaps new ways of thinking, that move beyond the contradictory demands. In old-style Marxist language, which Third Way supporters would not, of course, dream of using, their movement seems to be a synthesis between the thesis of free-market conservatism and the antithesis of old-style socialism, rather than a messy compromise.

f one makes the leap of faith required to listen with sympathy, rather than derision, to the claims made by the modern left-of-centre politicians, it is this faith in finding practical solutions that reconcile and synthesise opposing forces that seems to characterise the Third Way. Instead of simply accepting the contradiction between economic prosperity and social justice, the Third Way proponents believe they can design policies to improve both economic growth and income distribution. Instead of simply offering the electorate a choice between lower taxes and better public services, they claim to be able to deliver both. Instead of making a choice between better education and more selection, they promise that both can be achieved. Instead of simply choosing between cutting welfare benefits and supporting more unproductive welfare scroungers, they say they can design policies that will force more people to work. yet offer better support to the genuinely needy.

Of course, when put in such general terms, the Third Way claims may sound dishonest and unrealistic. But it is in their detailed practical effects, not in their general philosophy, that the Third Way's policies will have to be judged. And unlike many politicians of the older generation, it is when they discuss the practical details of their policies that many of the new leaders really come to life. It remains to be seen whether the Third Way's confidence in its own cleverness turns out to be iustified. To Conservatives, who are naturally sceptical about collective action, the Third Way's faith in the possibilities of efficient government seems hopelessly over-optimistic. But in this optimistic era, the efforts of the Right to redefine a genuine Conservative ideology seem even more hopeless.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk



Earl blues

SECRETS of Earl Spencer's mar-riage to the lovely Victoria could be aired in court, much to the old boy's chagrin. While relieved that he will not have to give evidence during his former wife's bitter court battle with her previous divorce lawyers, he is concerned that the case will wreck their confidentiality deal when Victoria graces the stand.

The countess, awarded 1.8 mil-The countess, awarded 1.8 million big ones in her South African divorce, is suing lawyers for £1.6 million. "It's rather unfair," I am told. "I dare say the earl is not delighted by his marriage being dragged through the courts again."

Last time, small-minded gossips were treated to details of the earl's distractions with Sally Ann Lasson and a Chantal Collopy.

FOR those in search of God: the great deity can now be e-mailed at God@dow.cam.ac.uk. This gets one through to His local representative, the chaplain of Downing College, Cambridge, Bruce Kinsey. "Some Christians have a sense of humour," bristles my man with the harp. "It's an easy address. No one forgets it."

■ GOOD to see that Harold Pinter has not lost touch with his rough and radical roots. While theatregoers enjoyed the first night of his light entertainment, The Birthday Party (granted a strange West End revival), our Harold was absent. Now I know why. He and his

other half, Lady Antonia Fraser, found themselves at high table with Emma Rothschild and other refuseniks at Trinity College, Cambridge. Not that the cast was too distressed. I ran into the splendid Prunella Scales afterwards, who

had clearly benefited from Pinter's unique theatrical analysis. "He came to watch when it was on the road in Richmond," she says. "I fear it was far too early in the run."



just been taken to its logical conclusion: so perhaps its practitioners can now quit the party scene and retire to Gloucestershire with a bar-load of Fulham estate agents. One of their number, Cat de Rham, is throwing a photo exhibition consisting entirely of self-portraits. Blain's gallery says "the artist, in the honesty of her quest, bravely chose to shoot herself naked". While I admire such brave honesty, dear reader, please be content with this more modest work (above).

RUNNING into Ken Livingstone in his favoured Mayfair club the other day. I was taken aside to hear that he has won over the former Deputy PM. Michael Heseltine: "He said he wanted to get 'Tories for Livingstone' badges made," said Red Ken. Strangely, Hezza has a different take, calling Tony Blair's bete noire "one of the greatest jokes of modern times".



■ ROBERT MAXWELL is enjoying the dizzy heights of power. The old rogue's chopper — which used to land on the MGN office emblazoned with his lion logo — now flies ministers. The French Squirrel. based at RAF Northolt, boasts Bob's extra large seat, handy for fuller-figured ministers such as John Prescott. But they may feel Cap'n Bob's presence a little unnerving, as he was not renowned for his successful travel exploits.

MINUS his broken exhaust. Peter Mandelson has now found a new mode of transport — the Tube.

■ HUGH GRANT, nicknamed "Floppy" in Notting Hill, really does have a complex about his long locks. For promotion photo shoots. he was so worried about his hair that he had to drink three lagers and play Duke Ellington to relax-

JASPER GERARD

'Jill Dando's murder seems to be the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness' when he told the Commons that Mick Hume

The murder of Jill Dando is a tragedy for her family. friends and colleagues, a genuine shock to many other people, and a legitimate news story. So why can't we leave it at

Why does what should be a moment for private grief have to be elevated into a semi-state occasion, complete with appearances from the Queen and President Blair? The orgy of emotionalism can tell us little about the life of the blameless Miss Dando. Her brutal murder appears to have become the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease - mourning sickness. Many have tried not just to

report her death, but to sanctify her life, trying to endow an apparently inexplicable murder with some deeper meaning. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, set the tone for the media coverage

Miss Dando "had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role, not least in Crimewatch UK". In yesterday's Times, Valerie Grove concurred that "Because she stood bravely in the studio appealing for help in solving crime. Miss Dando stood for right versus wrong". The article also compared her televised launch of the Kosovo appeal to the anti-mine campaigning of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Posthumous attempts to depict Miss Dando as a symbol of Good fuelled the speculation that her death may have been an act of revenge by the forces of Evil. The front-page headline in Tuesday's Express — "Was she killed by a hitman?" — was topped by the banner headline on Wednes-day's Daily Mail: "Was Jill killed by a Serb gunman?" When emotionalism rushes in

the door, perspective goes out of the window. No doubt Miss Dando was a warm and charming woman. But she was also an archetypal celebrity: somebody who is famous largely for being famous, rather than for what they have done. As a television presenter who "stood bravely in the studio", she was no more responsible for solving crimes or saving Kosovo refugees than her friend Desmond Lynam is to blame for the football results.

Everybody from Julie Burchill to the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare, Miss Dando's home town, has rushed to compare her to the late Diana. "Goodbye to an English rose" read one of the floral tributes outside Miss Dando's Fulham house. And while Tony Blair just stopped short of repeating his eulogy to Diana,

Sue Carroll of The Mirror did it for him. "If Diana was the People's Princess," she told us.

"Jill was the People's Presenter." Miss Dando was clearly no Diana, more Tesco Metro than Harvey Nicks. Yet those trying to recreate the morbid effusion whipped up after the death of the Princess insist that they were both like "the girl next door". Where "ordinary people" loved Diana for her vulnerability and insecurity, Jill was admired for what one former boss called her "extraordinary ordinariness".

At one time, being weak might have been thought a reason for not getting the Hollywood treatment. Now it is a telling sign of our unheroic age that we should be encouraged to admire and emulate a Princess who called herself "as thick as a plank" and

a celebrity who once described herself as "Jill Blando". The media must take their

share of responsibility for encouraging much of the copycat mawkishness. The response of some journalists and broadcasters has gone way beyond the understandable sense of shock and loss at the murder of one their own. Both the BBC and ITN produced special half-hour programmes within hours of Miss Dando's death - something they never managed for the outbreak of war in the Balkans.

et the media are not ultimately to blame. Many people seem only too willing to be injected with another dose of mourning sickness. At a time when people feel disengaged from the old institutions that once held them together, public displays of mourning for a Diana, a Linda McCartney

or a Jill Dando (complete with the new rituals of flower-laying, condolence-book signing etc) have become rare opportunities to show some social solidarity. Respect the grief of the berea-

ved, but don't indulge the rest of the circus. People may exhibit strong feelings during mourning sickness, but for most they are ersatz emotions, directed at people they did not know for reasons of which they are unsure. As Dr Oliver James said of the tears for Diana, "whilst the sincerity of the feelings are undoubted, their authenticity is not". Meanwhile, in Belgrade, they

drag the body of an ordinary, innocent make-up lady from the rubble of the Serbian equivalent of BBC Television Centre. No tears or TV specials for her.

The author is Editor of LM magazine. lm@informinc.co.uk

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NO PRESENT ALTERNATIVE

But Hague must take personal command of his policy review

In the immediate aftermath of Peter Lilley's address last week William Hague proclaimed proudly that his deputy had "slayed the myth" that Conservatives were bent on the outright privatisation of key public services. There has been slaughter aplenty in Conservative circles over the past few days; Mr Hague's interpretation of events continues to appear extremely optimistic. The Tory leader did. however, take the opportunity of a speech last night m offer the sort of language on public-private partnerships that, had it been adopted by Mr Lilley, might have rendered his lecture mercifully uncontroversial. This may help to staunch his party's wounds.

There are certain other myths surrounding this sorry saga that still need exploding. The first is the myth that the Tories are entering the final days of Mr Hague's tenure. There is a hothouse atmosphere in Westminster at present. It will be reinforced by the latest MORI poll for The Times which shows that Tory support has slumped again and that, by a margin even greater than that in the electorate as a whole, their remaining voters are dissatisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

But a palace coup cannot take place without a credible alternative monarch. Kenneth Clarke remains an effective performer whose views on the single currency make it impossible for him to serve as leader. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, may have been a contender six months ago but the refusal of his much-heralded recession to appear has damaged his standing. He has also hurt himself by backing Mr Lilley within the Shadow Cabinet. Michael Portillo is not an MP and any attempt to create a by-election to boost his candidature, history suggests, is doomed to failure. There is no realistic

alternative to Mr Hague as leader. A slightly different dilemma exists with regard to Mr Lilley. The most superficially obvious way in which the Conservatives could recapture the intellectual and political credibility lost last week would be for him to offer his resignation. This would be justified by the cavalier (ashion in which he has treated his colleagues, both in the content of his argument and in assessing its consequences. But if Mr Lilley departed because of the dissent over his speech, the Labour Party could cheerfully portray his fall as the price that a Tory politician pays for uttering approving words about the NHS. This could be an even worse public relations disaster. There is thus at present no realistic alternative to Mr Lilley as deputy leader.

Nor will matters be improved by a change of party chairman. Three weeks ago Mr Hague could have still elevated Mr Portillo, by far the most attractive option, to that position. To turn to a potential rival now would look like an act of desperation. It would be easier to revisit this scenario if the Conservatives made unexpectedly strong gains in next week's elections. But if that happened, Mr Hague might conclude that he had no need to summon Mr Portillo to his rescue. There is thus little realistic chance that Mr Portillo can become Conservative Party chairman.

None of this means that Mr Hague should simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissipate. Profound damage has been done and corrective measures need to be taken. His policy document, Action for Britain, scheduled for publication in September, has assumed increased importance. That text cannot afford to be late, vacuous, or timid. Mr Hague has effectively surrendered that process to Mr Lilley and this has been an unambiguous example of failed leadership. The Conservative leader needs to take personal charge of his policy review and drive it through to completion. He cannot afford to assume that there will be no realistic alternative to his continued command for ever.

MIND THE GAP

Access to Justice must mean what it says

Legal aid exists to ensure that no one is denied access to the courts for lack of money. But the costs of the current system have soared since 1949, well beyond successive governments' willingness to pay. That is partly because the system has been abused for ill-founded claims. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has recognised that lawyers are inclined to accept cases, regardless of their merits, on the basis that the taxpayer will always pick up the bill. That is why his Access to Justice Bill rightly seeks to tackle the problem of indiscriminate litigation. The Bill seeks to scrap all legal aid for personal injury claims. Instead, lawyers are to take briefs on a "no win, no fee" basis.

The taxpayer may be the winner from this arrangement, but will justice? There are two sides to any action. Those who go to law on the basis that if they do not win they need not pay their own legal bills must still face the possibility that, if they lose, they must pay the other side's costs. The Lord Chancellor envisages that insurance schemes will, however, develop to cover the

risk of losing an action. The development of an insurance market is a neat solution. But only if it meets two concerns. Insurance must be widely available and easily affordable. And, for those who cannot always afford premiums but who need justice, there must be a certainty that their actions, if worthy, can proceed. The House of Lords has amended the Bill in an effort to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable potential litigants are not

denied justice. Insurance companies are prepared to exploit this new market, but they have their own obligations. They are inclined to offer cover only if they can be certain that most cases will be won. The mathematics of insurance, and the need to spread risk, make such a calculation inevitable. It is fair to say that most cases which do not have a good chance of success should not be taken up. The insurance market could act as a surer judge of which cases are worth pursuing than lawyers who can rely on the taxpayer to fund speculative actions.

But there are still concerns. If an insurance market fails to mature then only those with very deep pockets will be able to pursue their claims. Some insurance companies are already refusing to deal with solicitors who lose too many cases. Even if solicitors do try to insure all their cases, they will still need to think carefully about the number of risky actions they take on. Injured people with cases which appear difficult may find it hard to find a solicitor. Then there is the cost factor. Even a standard personal injury claim is likely to cost more than £100 to insure.

The Lord Chancellor says that a "hard cases" fund will be set up to protect such people. But he has refused to write such protection into the Access to Justice Bill. The House of Lords amendment seeks to rectify this perceived failing. It tries to ensure that a safety net will exist in the legislation to cover all deserving cases. The amendment is supported by the Law Society and the Bar Council. The Lord Chancellor should not just dismiss their campaign as special pleading. While the amendment for which both they, and leading charities, have campaigned may not be the most effective means of balancing access to justice and taxpayers' concerns, there is a need for Lord Irvine to provide greater reassurance. His worthwhile reform should not be blighted by a perception that it will benefit the many at the expense of a deserving few.

GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Why companies should help the homeless

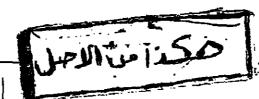
Governments should not need to preach family values. When they do, it is a sure sign that the staple unit of society is breaking apart, that in an increasingly fragmented culture people are being cut adrift. The fallout is only too evident. The streets of London are home to a bedraggled army of beggars trailing blankets, beer cans and pet dogs on strings. At least 500 people in the capital are known regularly to sleep rough. And the problem does not end at King's Cross or Victoria. From Reading to Hove, they sprinkle the commuter belt. They are to be found in all Britain's city centres. Yesterday's visit by the Prince of Wales to The Passage. London's largest day centre for the homeless, served to publicise just how severe this problem has become.

The homeless cannot be stereotyped as a bunch of old alcoholics or aggressive scroungers too idle to work. They form a diverse community ranging from teenagers forced to flee abuses to former members of the Armed Forces. Food, a fixed address, access to washing facilities and a training in basic skills offer those who have stumbled a fresh opportunity to find work and self-respect.

This is where corporate leaders can offer essential support. As president of the charity Business in the Community, the

Prince of Wales yesterday urged business executives to consider innovative ways in which to reinstate homeless people in society. These may begin with straightforward material contributions, financial gifts or donations in kind. Clothing companies, for instance, might provide interview suits. or hoteliers old bed linen. But less tangible generosity is even more welcome. Company employees have many skills to pass on. They can offer their time in mentors' roles. And employers, rather than discriminating against the ambitious simply because they are homeless, could seek out such people in job placement schemes.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the Big Issue, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nato and plight of Walden's 'donnish' political views hapless Kosovans

From Group Captain Keith Chapman, RAF (retd)

Sir, The escalation of Nato's bombing campaign to include soft civilian tar-gets such as the TV station in Belgrade (report, April 24) is not only a measure of its failure to achieve its original objectives, but also seriously undermines Nato's claim to the moral high ground.

Despite the propaganda and rhetoric coming from Brussels, Washington and Whitehall — including the optimistic assertion that Nato fortunes are set to improve dramatically with the deployment of US Apache helicopters (report. April 23) - the fact remains that bombing has done vir-tually nothing to alleviate the plight of the hapless Kosovo Albanians.

How many more missiles and bombs must be launched and how much more innocent blood must be shed before Nato's political leaders face up to the fact that they have dragged us into a war which no one can win? Common sense, if nothing else, cries out for an immediate end to the bombing and the simultaneous return of this complex problem to the only place where it can ultimately be resolved - the negotiating table.

Yours etc. K. CHAPMAN, 9 Hedgecourt Place, Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ. April 24.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, As a member of the generation that "learnt their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience. Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generational group on kosovo as they are of

the views in the country generally.

Presenting the Orwell awards for political journalism on March 30, Baroness Williams of Crosby made one of the strongest statements in support of British policy over Kosovo I have heard. A radical journalist present said to me: "No one in our generation, remembering what we saw and learnt in Europe after the war, could stand by and watch what is happening in Kosovo today without doing something." He, I and Baroness Williams were all Oxbridge, vintage 1948.

Much the same image of generational solidarity emerged during the public debate of 1989-91 over the war crimes legislation; though here it was confronting our elders led by Lord Shawcross, the late Lord Beloff and

Yours sincerely, D. CAMERON WATT (Professor Emeritus of International History). London School of Economics and Political Science. Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.

From Dr C. Storer

Sir, Day by day the media carry harrowing reports of children from Kosovo who have been separated from parents and of husbands who have been separated from wives, raising the question of whether the families can ever be reunited. Those concerned do not even know whether their loved ones are alive or dead, nor which country survivors may be in.

You carried an item on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database on the Internet (article, Interface. November 11, 1998; report, January 22). Using that database, one can obtain details such as location of grave or memorial of any one of the millions of Commonwealth casualties from wars this century. It took me less than five minutes to locate an individual record, and I am an Internet novice.

Could not the Government construct a similar database carrying the name and previous address in Kosovo of all refugees seeking relatives? Presumably this could be built so that refugees could enter their own details as well as search for records of loved ones. Setting up such a database might cost less than one cruise mis-

If the Government does not start the project. I offer my services for data input if one of your readers volunteers to construct the website.

Yours faithfully. C. C. STORER. Deeping, Bevyl Road, Parkgate, South Wirral L64 6RR. chris@cstorer.freeserve.co.uk

Performance and pay

From Mr Robert Russell

Sir, Dr Alan Shrank (letter, April 26) accuses politicians advocating performance-related pay for teachers of pur-suing policies "abandoned by those who have introduced them in the past", and claims that commerce is disenchanted with this policy.

Is he suggesting that employers should pay staff for simply turning up

Yours faithfully, R. C. RUSSELL The Granary. Bates Farm, Wittersham. Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PL. April 26.

From Professor P. B. Harris

From Mr Russell Wood

Sir. I have always regarded George Walden [book extracts, April 26, 27 and 28) as someone who is a complete academic and who is absolutely out of place in the political world. All the politicians he condemns, compared to him, are true political animals.

For example, William Hague has a masterly brilliance in the House of Commons and easily outperforms Tony Blair. His reply to the Chancel-lor in the last Budget debate was ab-solutely outstanding. He is also an orator with Churchillian qualities of whom there have been very few since the war.

All of this, however, has been lost on the donnish George Walden.

Yours truly, RUSSELL WOOD, The White Cottage, Chigwell Village, Essex 1G7 6QB.

From Mr J. McCubbin

Sir, The recollections of George Walden make terrific reading. The writing is pithy and chock-a-block with flavour. They are insightful and

The most astounding insight, how-ever, must be the ease with which Walden could be persuaded to troop to the voting chamber of John Major's desire (April 26). That a man in high office, at the peak of his career, in the pay of the taxpayer, could be so cheaply won over against his better judgment is astonishing. That he claims it was because he was so squeamish about the other opponents of Maastricht beggars belief.

When he considered the consequences of a major treaty with such profound implications for the future sovereignty of the nation, in truth, weak-willed Walden was of no more service to the nation than the pagerworshipping backbenchers of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully, J. McCUBBIN, Sandon House, Bakewell Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 5HJ.

Tories and free market

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, You report (April 26) Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, as saying: "In government we sometimes sounded as if we were only interested in markets... But someone suffering from cancer is a patient who wants to be cared for, not a customer within the internal market."

He seems to forget that in 1989, at the start of the Tory NHS reforms, page letter from Sir Duncan Nichol (then NHS Chief Executive) actually instructing all staff to look on all people using the NHS as "customers" the word "patient" hardly appeared.

No one can be blamed if 15 pages of instruction stick in the memory rather longer than the occasional misunderstood comments of that Government, which he now seeks to correct as if they were just minor errors of presentation.

In 1987 I met William Hague for the first and only time: he seemed keen on the "internal market" for the NHS. A Tory decade of deliberate market policy in the NHS deserves a rather stronger admission of culpability if the Opposition is to be believed.

(NHS consultant, 1973-95). Wynd House. April 26.

From Mr Kenneth J. Jordan

Sir, Peter Lilley is only half right when he says that "the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare" (report, April 21). Its role is, indeed, limited but the Conservative Party has not yet found or

Yours faithfully. KENNETH J. JORDAN. 2 Roeheath, Cinder Hill, Chailey, East Sussex BN8 4HR. ken.jordan@dial.pipex.com Aprīl 27.

New D-G for BBC

From Mr John Hambley

Sir. It is clear that the next BBC Director-General will be under constant scrutiny for signs of political bias. This is an excellent safeguard of the public interest, and preferable to Sir Paul Fox's curious suggestion (letter, April 26; see also letters, April 20, 2) and 23) that candidates may qualify only after a lifetime spent hiding their

political sympathies.

The BBC needs a strong champion of viewers and listeners who will place programme-making above manage-ment consultancy and fight vigorously for public service broadcasting in the gloves-off competition of the

Those qualities may not be found readily in those whose allegiances have either been concealed or have shifted with every wind.

JOHN HAMBLEY 4 St Elmo Road, W12 9EA. April 27.

From Mr Len Harris

23) that anyone who met Greg Dyke would know that politics has never reared its ugly head during his astonishing 35-year career.

socialist leanings.

Yours sincerely, LEN HARRIS. Middle Royden. Kingswood Road, Shortlands. Bromley, Kent BR2 OHL, April 24.

Sir, George Walden's account of British politics circa 1997 may or may not be true, but in one respect it is caricature. As an observer of Hong Kong politics for 30 years I find his picture of Hong Kong under Chris Patten rotesquely inaccurate.

Walden sees a conflict between great forces, "democracy" (never ex-plained in the Hong Kong context), and non-democracy. He refers to letters passed between the British and Chinese Governments as if these were the battleground of these rival ideologies. I see nothing more in these letters but a juggling of figures in a series of technical memoranda over the numbers of directly elected and functional constituency members in the final days of the colonial Legislative Council.

Chris Patten did not set out to introduce "democracy" in Hong Kong. He moved incrementally simply by working within the limits of the 1984 Sino-British Agreement, pushing popular representation to its furthest extent. Functional constituencies, or group representation, remained and remain to this day, and for the foreseeable future.

The real issue in Hong Kong is not the Legislative Council and its composition, but the survival of the rule of law, now currently being thrashed out in the courts.

Yours faithfully. P. B. HARRIS (Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Hong Kong). 28 Queen Anne Square, Cathays Park, Cardiff CFI 3ED.

From Mr Tony Salter

Sir. Conservative politicians must be finding it hard to believe that George Walden was once their Honourable Friend.

Yours faithfully, TONY SALTER. 38 Bennett Park, Blackheath, SE3 9RB. April 27.

Yours truly, ROGER HOLE The Wynd, Hutton Rudby. North Yorkshire TS15 0ES.

reached those limits.

Pusillanimous leadership which puts more faith in focus groups than in rigorous and radical thinking will never find those limits. Nor will it be entrusted with the task by the electorate.

Yours faithfully,

Sir. Nigel Havers asserts (letter, April

My encounter with Greg Dyke took place 22 years ago, and I found him to be not just intensely political, but fervently so.

He was the Labour candidate for the seat of Putney in the 1977 Greater London Council elections. As the victorious Conservative candidate for Putney I had ample opportunity to witness at first hand Greg Dyke's Pinochet extradition

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Lord Lamont of Lerwick (letter. April 23) plaintively asks, regarding General Pinochet: "What sort of justice is it when . . . it is not necessary to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial?"

The short answer is that it is the justice that the Government of which Lord Lamont was a prominent member forced through Parliament when enacting the Extradition Act 1989. Section 9(4). That sub-section provides precisely the matter of which Lord Lamont now complains.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT RHODES, 4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4Y 7DL

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, Lord Lamont makes an important point about the damage done to British justice by the most recent decision of the Home Secretary in the Pinochet extradition proceedings, especially in view of the implication of the law lords' statement that the number of cases of alleged malpractice had been reduced to a possible maximum of three (reports, March 25).

But there is further cause for concern with a Government that preaches openness but does not practise it. The Pinochet case can be discussed in the press, on the radio, on television, but not in Parliament where ministers claim it is "sub judice". Given that the decisions by the Home Secretary are strictly political this seems a most curious manifestation of democracy.

Yours faithfully. MONTGOMERY. House of Lords. April 26.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Clue to man's 'hybrid' ancestry

From Dr Euan W. MacKie

Sir. Your report (April 21) about the discovery in the Lapedo Valley in Portugal of the skeleton of the four-year-old part-Neanderthal boy, about 24.500 years in age, arouses interest, not least because of the claims made about its great significance for our understanding of the relationship between these archaic humans and the newly arrived modern people, our ancestors. The skeleton is positively said by Professor Erik Trinkaus to show interbreeding between the two groups, hitherto thought of as im-placably mutually hostile.

The most obvious physical feature of the Neanderthal people was their skull, with its heavy brow ridge and sloping forehead combined with a very large brain, yet the skull in this case is described as fragmentary. Is it really possible reliably to detect a hybrid individual primarily from limb bones, particularly when they are of an immature boy? The days are long gone when Neanderthals were thought to have had a shambling. stooping gair with bent long bones; these bones were very similar to ours. though somewhat more robust.

Even if the skeleton does prove to be a hybrid, can we be as confident as Professor Trinkaus and agree that this is not a one-off "love child" but a sign of a more general mixing of the sub-species? Portugal is a long way west from the northward land route through the Near East followed by Homo sapiens when he left Africa (according to one view) and may not

be typical. The stratigraphical evidence from several rock shelters in the Dordogne is well interpreted as showing clearly that, somewhat earlier, there was an abrupt replacement of the Neanderthats by physically modern people and this evidence is not altered by the

new discovery. Yours faithfully, EUAN W. MacKIE (Honorary research fellow), Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow. University Avenue, Glasgow G12 8QQ. April 22.

From Mr Shaun Taylor

Sir, The discovery of a skeleton of a young child, apparently with characteristics from both modern man and Neanderthals, is certainly a setback to the old theory that humans actively participated in the extinction of their

cousins. If the boy's skeleton is the offspring of an interpreeding of the two species the question remains, as your report suggests, as to why modern European DNA is not closer to Neanderthal DNA than DNA from other parts of

the world. Possibly, either the offspring of such couplings were sterile, as hybrid organisms frequently are, or the offspring were prone to die before they reached adulthood.

Yours faithfully, SHAUN TAYLOR. 204 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HPI3 7LY.

EU patron saint

From Professor Emeritus

Edward Garden Sir, St Cecilia should be the patron saint of the EU (letters, April 14, 2)

and 28). As the patron saint of music, which crosses all artificial, man-made boundaries, she could help to bring harmony to all the participating countries of the Union, Furthermore, is it not about time that we had a woman in

such a position? Yours faithfully, EDWARD GARDEN, 91 Millhouses Lane. Sheffield S7 2HD. April 28.

Name of the game

From Mrs Angela Callaghan Sir, You provided today two wonderful examples of people's names eminently fitting the jobs they do. In the Dr Stuttaford article on obesity we had a

Professor Michael Lean pronouncing

on weight management; and in Birth-

days today, the Surveyor of the Fabric

of Westminster Abbey has the charm-

ing name of Mr Donald Buttress. This makes a lovely start to the day. Yours faithfully, ANGELA CALLAGHAN. 59a Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9EN.

A Mir Welshman?

From Mr Anthony Moorman Sir, Peter Llewelyn, who is said to have agreed to pay for a week-long flight on the Mir space station (report, April 28), is described as a "space-mad Welshman" and as a successful "Brit-

ish businessman". I wonder whether he will be "successful British businessman who buys trip to space" or "a Welshman who failed to buy space holiday"?

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY MOORMAN, 67a Boroughgate, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 IAG April 28.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 28: Mrs Mary Francis was received by The Queen upon relinquishing her appointment as Deputy Private Secretary when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen was represented by the Hon Mary Morrison, Woman of the Bedchamber, at the Funeral of Mr Charles Martyn which was held at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Hinton. Christchurch, today.

WINDSOR CASTLE April 28: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed from Jedda

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived at RAF Northolt. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE April 28: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, today re-ceived the President, the Lord Campbell of Alloway, and members of the Colditz Association.

ST JAMES'S PALACE April 28: The Prince of Wales. President, Business in the Community, this morning visited The Passage Day Centre, St Vincent's, Carlisle Place, London SWI. His Royal Highness, President,

Business in the Community, later attended the Seeing is Believing Homelessness Seminar. The Prince of Wales this afternoon opened the Dudley Station-

ery Distribution Centre, holders of The Prince of Wales's Warrant, at Crown Close, Wick Lane, Bow, His Royal Highness this after-

noon received the Prime Minister. BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 28: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation. held a lunch at Buckingham

His Royal Highness, Patron. Ocean Youth Trust, this afternoon met the outgoing Chairman, Mr

engagements

The Queen and the Duke of the Royal Victorian Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor, After the service the Queen will give a reception in the State Apartments Windsor Castle, for members of the Order and Medallists.

Sherborne School for Girls, Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset. The Duke of York, president, will

attend a reception for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions at the National History Museum. London SW7, at 6.00.

Family visit the royal website at-www.royal.gov.uk

Jordan A memorial service for King

College of

Mr Timothy Jay, President of the College of Chiropractors, welcomed the guests at the official launch of the college held yesterday at the King's Fund, Cavendish Square. Sir Terence English, Baroness Fookes, Mr David Ashdown Dr Lotte Newman and Lord Newton of Braintree also spoke.

Chairman, Mr Alan Kingsley at Buckingham Palace. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

April 28: The Princess Royal this morning was received by President Mubarak at the Presidency, Heli-Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the Integrated Care Society.

Heliopolis. The Princess Royal subsequent-visited the British Council, Heliopolis.

Her Royal Highness later visit-

ed the Association for the Protection of Environment (APE) project, The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon visited the Regional

Her Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception at the British Council Head Office, Agouza.
The Princess Royal later visited Brooke Hospital for Animals, Zein

Office, Cairo.

Al-Ahdein Her Royal Highness subsequent-ly unveiled a plaque outside The British Embassy, Cairo, to mark the Embassy's refurbishment.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception given by the British Ambassador to Egypt (Sir David Blatherwick) at the Resi-ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 28: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the Trustees, this morning attended a meeting with the Trustees and Canadian Members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Group at Whitehead Mann, Hill Street, London WI.

His Royal Highness, Grand
President, this afternoon attended

the Annual Investiture of the United Grand Lodge of England at Freemasons' Hall, Great Oueen Street, London, followed by dinner at the Savoy Hotel.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE April 28: Princess Alexandra, Dep-uty Royal Honorary Colonel, this evening visited The Royal Yeoman-ry at The Duke of York's Head-

Today's royal **Birthdays** today

Edinburgh will attend a service of The Prince of Wales will visit

For more details about the Royal

King Hussein of

ussein of Jordan will be held in St Paul's Cathedral at Ham on Monday, July 5. Admission will be by ticket only and those wishing to attend should apply in writing enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Secretary, Anglo-London SW7 7LL. Tickets will be

Chiropractors

29: Mr Frank Auerbach, painter, 68: Mr Jonah Barrington, squash player, 58; Mr Dean Bell, rugby league player, 37; Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, 57; Mr Torn Clarke, former Editor, Sporting Life, 60; Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, actor, 42; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Pylde. 56: Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal. St Anne's College, Oxford, 56; General Sir Peter de la Billière, 65; Mr Lonnie Donegan, skiffle musician and singer, 68; the Earl of Effingham, 60; Mr D.S. Elliott, former director, Museum of Mod-ern Art, Oxford, 50; His Honour Israel Finestein, QC, former President. Board of Deputies of British lews, 78; Dame Rennie Fritchie, former chairman, South and West Regional Health Authority, 57; Sir Patrick Hamill, former Chief Constable, Strathclyde, 69; Sir John Holmes, diplomat 48: Sir Kenneth James, former diplomat, 73; Miss sor David Johns, former Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University.

rapher, 72; Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC, 52; Mr Rod McKuen, poet and composer, 66; Mr Zubin Mehta, conductor, 63: Mr Johnny Miller, golfer, 52; Mr A.W. Nicol, former chairman, South Western Electricity, 66; Sir Fraser Noble, Principal Emeritus, Aberdeen University. 81; Sir Ronald Norman, former chairman, Teesside Development Corporation, 62; General Sir Patrick Palmer, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, 66: Miss Michelle Pfeiffer, actress, 42; Professor B.D. Ripley, statistician, 47: Lord Rothschild, 63; Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former leader, Liberal Party, 70: Mr David Tindle, painter, 67; Professor Heinz Wolff, bioengineer, 71.

The night sky in May

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is in the marning sky until superior conjunction on the 25th when it becomes an evening star but will be too near the Sun for Venus is a brilliant -4.2 magni-

tude evening star, not setting until shortly before midnight. Between mid-month and the 31st it crosses the main figure of Gemini to end May in line with Pollux and Castor, the three objects being almost equally spaced. Crescent Moon nearby on the 18th. Mars is in Virgo moving west-

wards against the stars from night to night. Closest to the Earth on the lst and -1.6 magnitude it fades to -1.1 by the 31st as the distance between the two planets increases. Mars sets about 02h by the 31st. Moon to the north on the 26th. Jupiter is in Pisces and -2.1

magnitude rising by 02h by the end of May when it might be visible low in the east at dawn. Waning crescent Moon nearby on Saturn is Aries for the rest of the

year but is too near the Sun for observation in May. Uranus is in Capricornus and

5.7 magnitude, reaching a station-ary point on the 22nd. It rises at midnight by end May. Moon nearby on the 8th. Neptune is also in Capricorous and a fainter 7.9 magnitude. Stationary on the 7th it rises less than an hour before Uranus. Moon nearby on the 7th. The Moon: Last quarter 8d 17h, new Moon 15d 12h, first quarter 22d 06h, full Moon 30d 07h. Moon

near to Regulus in Leo on the 21st. Sunset on the 1st is at 19h 25m and on the 31st at 20h 10m while sumrise is at 04h 30m and 03h 50m on the same dates. Astronomica twilight ends at 21h 55m and begins again at 02h 00m on the 1st. it lasts all night in the south (London) from May 20 until July 22 and in the north (Glasgow) from May 1 until early August. As is widely known there will be

a total eclipse of the Sun on the morning of August II this year, the first UK mainland total eclipse since 1927. The next is not until 2090, just before sunsed The path dity crosses southern parts of Cornwall and Devon, Alderney, northern France and so across Europe and the Middle East to end in India. A partial solar eclipse will be visible widely on either side of this track and over the whole of the The timing of the event will be

or not one intends to be situated within the band of totality on eclipse day, the Sum will be partially eclipsed both before and after mid-eclipse. On the centre line of the eclipse in the West Country totality will last only two

Eton College The Fellows of Eton College are

pleased to announce that The Queen has approved the appoint-

ment of Dr Eric Anderson to be

Provost of Eton in succession to Sir

Antony Acland who will retire in

Miss Fleanor Beatrice Weatt in

1899, celebrates its centenary in

the school chapel, designed and

tiens, is to be dedicated at Even-

song on Sunday, May 9. A Celebration Eucharist will be held

at St Augustine's, Oueen's Gate,

London at 2pm on Ascension Day,

Thursday, May 13, Sister Veronica

Ann, SSC (Ann Fellowes, at Heath-

field from 1933-1940) will give an address. Centenary Fellowship

Day for Old Girls will be held at

Heathfield on Saturday, May 15, when a marquee lunch will be followed by Evensong conducted by the Rev Brian Pugh, Chaplain

at Heathfield from 1988-1995. On Sunday, May 16, all parents have been invited to the school for Sports Day when there will be a

dication of the Foundation Stone

for the indoor swimming pool

complex to be built as a result of

the Centenary Fund-Raising Cam-

paign and opened in the summer

WOLRIGE GORDON - On 21st

April 1999, to Sarah (née Edwarda) and Patrick, a son, Robert Patrick.

SARRES - David, on 27th
April, aged 72 at home.
Dearly loved husband,
father, stepfather,
grandfather. Cremation
private. Service of
Thanksgiving in Chelford
Parish Church on Friday
7th May at 2.45pm. No
flowers please. Donations
if desired to Cancer
Research, c/o J A Whiston,
King Street, Knutsford,
WA16 6DW.

BURGESS - Dennis Edward completed a happy life on St Georges Day, 23rd April 1999. Beloved hasband of Gillis and a staunch friend, he died aged 67 after a brief illness borne with courage. Funeral has taken place. He will be greatly missed.

DEATHS

the summer of the year 2000.

Heathfield School, founded

May. A stained glass window

made by Patrick and John

Heathfield School, Ascot

School news

given nearer the date, but whether



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (I) pm) at the beginning, 22h (I0 pm) in the middle, and 2lh (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies

minutes, while the partial phases

will last about two hours and a

totality is it safe to look directly at the Sun without protecting the eyes

with special filters. Then the Sur's photosphere, the bright "surface"

and sometimes a few prominences projecting from the Sun's surface. Also visible should be the much

fainter and more delicate corona which may extend several times

the Sun's diameter. This very bot

and diffuse gas is normally invisi-ble to us without very special

instruments, hidden by the scat-tered light from the much brighter

photosphere. As the sky suddenly

darkens to twilight conditions the brighter stars and planets can

During totality nothing would be seen through a filter dense

Mr George Robertson, Secretary

of State for Defence, was the host

at a luncheon given by Her

Majesty's Government yesterday

at Lancaster House in honour of

Mr John Moore, Australian Minis-

Mr Peter Wheeler was the guest

speaker the annual presidential

luncheon of the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) held yesterday

Reed, president was in the chair

Among those present were:

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Clinton-Davis, Lord Hacking, Lord Thomas of Gresford, QC. Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC. MP, the Attorney General, the Solicity General, the Sentior Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division and Queen's Remembrancer, the Chief Master of the Supreme Court Taxing Office, the Chief Chancery Master, the High Sheriff of Greater London, the Chairman of the General Council of the Bar, the President of the Law Society.

The Federation of Environmental

Trade Associations
Sir Clement Freud was the guest

speaker at the annual luncheon of the Federation of Environmental

Trade Associations held yesterday

at The Brewery, Chiswell Street,

London, Mr Graham Garner,

tion Association, was in the chair.

Among those present were:

HM Government

ter for Defence.

Luncheons

west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount it inc place he east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes.

west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the

sunlight. So it is only during the two minutes of totality that it is safe to look at the Sun without eye protection. At any other time it is except perhaps when it is very near the horizon and strongly reddened that we see normally and which gives us daylight, is hidden by the Moon and in a clear sky it is possible to see the bright red narrow rim of the chromosphere, as at some sunsets. The fact that it is uncomfortable to look at the bright Sun enables us to go about our daily business: we just avoid staring at it automatically though it is shining up there a good part of the time. But when something interesting is happening there is the temptation to screw the eyes up and take a chance. Do not be

> As most of us will want to follow the partial phases of the eclipse what can be done to make this safe? It is not only the bright visible wavelengths that can damage the sight. Some filter material may dim the Sun to a comfortable level of brightness but still allow danger-ous ultra-violet and infrared wave-lengths through. One will not see

The Earl of Stockton, Mr Giles

Chichester, MEP, and Mrs Angela Harvey were among the speakers

at a luncheon of the Carlton Club Political Committee held yesterday

at the club. Mr Simon Mabey.

chairman, presided. Mr Fred Tuck-

Baron Bernard Snoy, Director of

the European Bank for Reconstruc-

tion and Development, Belgium, Lutembourg and Slovenia, was

the guest of honour and sneaker at

a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic

Club held yesterday at Dartmouth

House. Sir Peter Marshall, Chair-

man of the Joint Commonwealth

The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquar-

President, Mr S.S. Jervis: Treasur

er, Dr D.F. Renn; Director, Mr

A.G. MacGregor, Secretary, Mrs

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Prend Medal to

Antiquaries of

London

ies of London:

S.M. Youngs.

Dr Martia Mango.

man also spoke.

Mid-Atlantic Club

or feel these until damage has been done. It is even more dangerous to look through any instrument that collects more radiation than the eye, for example binoculars, a escope or a camera viewlinder unless special filters are fitted over the Sun-facing lenses. Filters should never be put just over the eveniences, the lenses closest to the eyes. Filters intended to be used with binoculars, telescopes and cameras must be obtained from a reliable source, be in good condi-

tion and be used under expert

There are safe ways of projecting the Sun's image on to a screen. Alternatively one can obtain one of the special safe filters that will reduce the Sun's glare to a comfortable level and screen out those invisible radiations. These can be in the form of cardboard spectacles. Next month I will suggest two ways of projecting the image and what to look for in obtaining suitable naked eye fil-

Anniversaries BIRTHS: John Arbuthnot, physician, Arbuthnott, Kincardineshire, 1667; Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak 1841-68. Benares, 1803; Bloomsbury, 1810; Alexander II, Tsar of Russia 1855-81, St Petersburg. 1818; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, San Francisco, 1865; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, St Helens, Lancashire, 1879; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conductor, Ashford, Kent, 1895;

Duke Ellington, pianist and band-leader, Washington, 1899; Michinomiva Hirohito. Emperor of Japan 1926-89, Tokyo, 1901. DEATHS: John Cleveland, Royal-ist poet, London, 1658; Sir Alfred Hitchcock, film director-producer. Los Angeles, 1980.

Women were granted permission to sit examinations at Oxford, 1885. A telephone link was established between Britain and Australia, 1930.

British Aerospace was founded.

Meeting Atlantic Cou

Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, was the speaker at a meeting of the Atlantic Treaty Association held yesterday at Atlantic House. Members of the Diplo-matic Corps and fellows and members of the council were

night at Speaker's House in hon-our of Mr Ivar Hansen, Speaker of the Folketing. The Danish Ambassador was present. The other guests were:

guests were:

Mr Tom Clarke, MP, Mrs Irene Adams, MP, Mrs Jackie Ballard, MP, Mr Roy Beggs, MP, Mr Clive Beits, MP, Mr Roy Beggs, MP, Mr Clive Beits, MP, Mr Neil Gerrard, MP, Mr Thick Harvey, MP, Sir Alan Hasefhur's, MP, Mr Nick Harvey, MP, Sir Alan Hasefhur's, MP, Miss Anne McIntosh, MP, Dr Nick Palmer, MP, Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP, Miss Debra Shirjey, MP, Mr Alan Simpson, MP, Miss Rachel Souire, MP, Mr David Winnick, MP, Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP, Mr Okyd Winnick, MP, Mr Sam Winterton, MP, Mr Scholas Winterton, MP, Mr Senie Dalsback, Mr William McKuy, Miss Sarah Riley, Mrs Mayamn Sharp, Mr Jers Adser Syrensen, Mr Robert Wilson, Canon Robert Wright and Mr Nicolas Bevan. Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff,

presided at a dinner given by the Air Force Board Standing Commit-

tee last night at RAF Bentley Priory to mark the retirement of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Headquarters Strike Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, and Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry, Air Member for Logistics. Lady Allison, Lady Terry and Air Mar-shals and their ladies were among

mdation for Science and

Technology Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society last night Lord Tombs, Mr Peter Beck and Professor John Durant were the speakers.

Forthcoming marriages

and Miss C.J. Longfield

The engagement is announced

between James, son of the late Dr

James Gilmour and of Mrs

Gilmour, of Colwall, Hereford and

Worcester, and Charlotte, youngest

daughter of Brigadier and Mrs

Desmond Longfield, of Paccombe

Farm House, Downton, Salisbury,

The engagement is announced

between Adam, son of Mr Warwick

Greville-Collins, of Rouisn.

France, and the late Mrs Patricia

Greville-Collins, and Henrietta,

daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy

(Podge) Greaves, of Esher, Surrey.

The marriage will take place in

Pyrford, Surrey, on June 19, 1999.

of Matthew, son of Dr and Mrs

Andrew Griffiths, of Chiswick,

London, and Charlotte Anne,

daughter of Mr and Mrs lan

The engagement is announced between Scott, elder son of Mr and

Mrs C.J. Leonard-Morgan, of

Bromley, Kent, and Samantha

daughter of Mrs Bea Nash, of Cobham, Surrey.

The engagement is announced

between Charles, elder son of Mr

and Mrs W.D. Moyle, of Ombersley,

younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel A.W. Franklin, of Charlton,

The engagement is announced

between Lord Sudeley, of Marylebone, London, and Mrs

Margarita Kellett, of Kingsclere,

The marriage took place on Saturday,

April 24, 1999, at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh,

between Mr Charles Boyd, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Boyd, of

Haslemere, Surrey, and Miss Jill

Percy, elder daughter of Professor

and Mrs Ian Percy, of Edinburgh. The Rev Tom Cuthell officiated.

Mr A.W. Greville-Collins

and Miss H.C. Greaves

Mr M. Griffiths

and Miss C.A. Fidler

Fidler, of Pyrford.

and Miss S. Nash

Mr S. Leonard-Morgan

Mr C.W. Moyle and Miss J.C. Franklin

Worcestershire, and

West Sussex.

Lord Sudeley

and Mrs M. Kellett

Marriage

Mr C.D.M. Boyd and Miss J.S. Percy

Mr A.R. Clark and Miss L. Bingham

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Clark, of Compton Bassett. Wiltshire, and Lara, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Bingham, of Tavistock.

Dr I.T. Cook and Miss I.V. Gravett

The engagement is announced between lan Taylor, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.T. Cook, of Stannington. Sheffield. South Yorkshire, and Isabel Vérornique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Gravett, of Woking, Surrey.

Viscount Cranley and Miss L. Jones-Fenleigh

The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of the Earl and Countess of Onslow, of Temple Court, Clandon Park, and Leigh. eldest daughter of Mrs Patricia Jones-Fenleigh, of Oakham, Rutland, and the late Edward James Jones-Fenleigh.

Mr A.R. Cross and Miss F.A. Miller Mundy The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Harold Cross, of Waipukerau, New Zealand, and Flora, daughter of Mr Andrew Miller Mundy and Mrs Bridget Miller Mundy, of Harris, Western Isles. Dr J.D. Cundall

and Miss J.M. Kent The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr John Cundall, of Sherburn, and Mrs Zeila Cundail, of Acklam, North Yorkshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr John Kent and Mrs Mary Kent, of Stafford.

Mr J.A. Gardner and Miss H.R. Holmes Daykin The engagement is announced between Jed Alan Gardner, of East Sussex, and Helena Ruth Holmes Daykin, of Yorkshire, both now of

Mr M.J.H. Gault and Miss A.E. Wherry

The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Gault, of Heathfield, East Sussex, and Amy. daughter of Mr and Mrs James Wherry, of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

Mr D.J. Henne and Miss A.J.C. Hall

Dinners

The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs John Hennessy, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Antonia. vounger hter of Captain and Mrs John Hall, of Long Sutton, Somerset

Shipwrights' Company

The Speaker gave a dinner last The following have been elected officers of the Shipwrights Company for the ensuing year:

Prime Warden, Mr Peter Tudhall: Renter Warden, Dr T. John Parker: Third Warden, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall; Fourth War-den, Mr David Cobb; Fifth Warden, Mr Alastair Farley.

Company of World Traders

The following have been elected officers of the Company of World Traders for the ensuing year: Master, Alderman Sir Roger Cork; Senior Warden, Miss Susan Hughes; Junior Warden, Mr Bryan

University news

The following will receive honorary degrees from Leicester Univer-Mr Tim Appleton, Master of

Professor Dame Gillian Beer, Doctor of Letters: Dr Philip Campbell, Doctor of

Dr Ken Edwards, Doctor of Laws: Professor Fred Leckie, Doctor of Mr Chris Moon, Master of Laws; Professor Sir Keith Peters, FRS, Doctor of Science;

Mr Raymond Seitz, Doctor of Laws: Sir Richard Sykes, FRS, Doctor of Science; Professor Sir Tony Wrigley, FBA.

where

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Doctor of Letters.

"My food," Jesus said to them, "is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he ne to do." John 4.34

BIRTHS CHERRUY - On April 2nd, Good Friday, in France, to Amande (née Brutton) and Franck, a son, Loick James, a brother for Laura

COE - On April 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Theress Malin and William, a daughter,

CORFY - On 24th April, to Claire (née Woodrow) and David, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra, a sister for

COPE - On 24th April 1999 at The Rosie Hospital, Cambridge, to Caroline (née Swinburne) and David, a son, Oliver

DE MEESTER - On April 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Angeline (née Burne) and Charles, a son, Chester Floris, a brother for Daisy GOW - On Monday April 26th, to Sarah (née Amos) and James, a son,

GOZZER - On 27th April 1999 at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a

BIRTHS MARDMENT - On April 25th 1999, to Louise (née Harry Thomas) and Neil, a son, James Eric Harry.

MAYES - On April 26th 1999, to Laura (née Buchanan) and James, a son, Augus Alexander, a brother for EWMAN - On March 31st at Lewisham Hospital, to Anne (née Czarnowski) and Peter, a daughter,

ULLEN-FREUCH - On April 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Kurli Pullen and Michael Freilich, a son, Felix Augustus, a brother for Louis.

Victoria Anne, a sister for

SERPEN - On April 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Sensu (noe Ciliz) and Emre, a daughter, Ela and a son, Hakan. SINGH - On April 28th at The Portland Hospital, to

Monita and Ranjii, a deughter, Ruhika, a sister for Rajvir. ven SCHMIDT - On April 22nd to Sarah (née Fatchen) and Robin, a beautiful daughter, Isabella Claire.

COLEMAN - Margaret, beloved wife of Noel Coleman, loving mother to Rupert, Camilla and Jolyon Bates and adoring grandmother to Angharad Matilda, Bonella, Mergan and Atalants, died after a long illness on 27th April and Atalants, died after a long illness on 27th April 1999. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 4th May at 2.15pm. Flowers to Mears and Cotteriil, 167-169 Metton Road, Wandsworth, SW18 5EF. Denations to the P.S.P. Association, The Old Rector, Wannesham. WESTERN KAYE - On 27th April 1999, to Katy (née Armitage) and Nick, a son George Laurence, a brother for Jamima. Rectory, Wappenham, Towcester, NN12 8SQ.

DEATHS

Walker peacefully at ho on April 23rd aged 58. Much loved husband of Anthes and father of Anthes and father of Edward, Amanda, Heuristta and stepfather of Nell and Angus. Funeral on Monday May 10th at East Pennard Church, Shepton Mallet, Somerset at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for the Countryside Alliance or the British Heart Foundation co Forsey & Son F/D, 28 High Street, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset. DRAKE - On 27th April 1999 studdenly and peacefully at home Capt. Denis J.E. of

studenty and pescefully at home Capt. Denis J.E. o. Hurst, Berkshire. Friend and husband of Annette, much loved father of Tim and Rupert. Rest in peace. Funeral arrangements c/o. Puneral arrangements o R. Aubrey Miles & Sons Funeral Directors, Wokingham, (0118) 979

DYSON - Frederick George on Sunday April 25th 1999 at Eastbourne Hospital. Funeral at Eastbourne Commenced and Commenced Crematorium on
Wednesday May 5th at
3pm, Family flowers only
but donations if desired to
RNLI

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

ADS - Dr John BUWARDS - Dr John
Ffoulkes peacefully at
home on 22nd April 1999,
in his 92nd year. He will be
sadly missed by Norman,
Erica, Paul, Viv and
Winnie and their families.
Funeral service to be held
at Oxford Crematorium.
on Thursday 20th April - Apri at Oxford Crematorium, on Thursday 29th April at 3.00pm. Floral tributes and enquiries to R & H Barker, 40 Wantage Road, Didcot. 01235 510033.

FRASER - Colonel James
Andrew Fraser, M.C.,
suddenly but peacefully atRaigmore Hospital,
Inverness on Tuesday 27th
April 1998, much loved
husband of Pamela and
loving father and
grandisther. Funeral
service and interment at St
Ninian's Episcopalian
Church, Glenurquhart on
Tuesday 4th May 1999 at
2 pm. Family flowers only.
Donations if desired at
service for Highland
Hospica or forwarded to
the Funeral Directors
John Fraser & Son, 17/29
Chapel Street, Inverness,
GB1.- Rachel Lucy, desriy

GB1 - Rachel Lucy, desriv loved daughter of David and Joy, died after a tragic and Joy, died after a trapic accident on April 22nd aged 34. Private cremation at Mortlake Crematorium 11.00am on Thursday May 6th followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Richmond Parish Church, 12 noon. Family Rowers only. Donations if desired to The Shooting Star Trust Appeal for a proposed childrens hospica. Both c/o T H Sanders & Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA. HICKE - On 28th April.

Brigadier William Shamu:
Francis OBE, late King's
Own Yorkshire Light
Infantry of Sievyre,
Terryglass, Co. Tipperary,
peacaivily aged 91 years.
Beloved husband of
Pauline and much loved
father of William, Jame an
A.G. and grandfather of
Christopher, Martin,
James and Rose. Devotedi;
cered for at Eingrove
Nursing Home, Birr.
Funeral at Terryglass at
1 lam on Saturday 1st May
No flowers. Donations if
wished to the Red Crose.

AAPP - Thomas Henry, on 26th April peacefully at home aged 72 after a brave struggle with Motor Neurone Disease and finally a stroke. Darling

husband of Sue and muci-loved father of Stephen. Kate and Joel and Grandps of Jumes and Georga. Funeral at St Brides, Fleet Street, London at 12 noon on Friday 7th May followed by reception at St Brides Institute, private family cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired, to MND

ROGERS - Tony MBE. Died suddenly on Monday, April 26th, 1993, aged 63. Will be leved always by hi wife Dawn, dearest girk Kylie and Jules, and greatly missed. Funeral at St Mildred's Church. Tenterden, Kent on Friday, May 7th at 1 pm. Donations in lieu of Donations in Heu of flowers to Keet Cricket Board (Youth Development Scheme) or British Diabetic Association c/o T.W. Fuggle & Son, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 8QU.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices

please call 0171 680 6880

MELNE-WATSON - Sir Michael. Suddenly in hospital on 27th April 1999. Much lowed father and grandfather. A service of Thanksgiving will be held at Grazeley Parish Church on Friday May 7th at 2.30pm. Family Howers only. Donations to MacMillan Nurses 4/0 Geoffrey Church & Co.

Geoffrey Church & Co. Tadley. Tel 0118 981 4420.

Kingskerswell, Family flowers only. Donations, it desired, for the RNLI, Torbay Branch, may be sent to Maunders Funeral Service, 27 Well Street, Paignton Devon. May he rest in peace. Smith-Carington - On April 27th 1999 peacafully in hospital Philip Smith-Carington aged 73 years. The beloved Brother of John and Norsen, adored Uncle of Shiona, loved and respected Great-Uncle of Alexander and Petrina. Private family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving in London to be announced.

SANDEMAN - On April 22nd 1999, peacefully at Torbay Hospital, the Reverend Canon Arthur Alastair

Malcom Sandeman, son of the late Mejor M G Sandeman, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Mrs H M Sandeman. Much loved uncle and great uncle and friend and counseller to many

great uncle and irlend an counsellor to many. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Babhacombe, at 12 noon on Friday 7th May, followed by interment at St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell Family

SUICH - Barbara on 27th
April at Overbury House,
April at Overbury House,
Norfolk, wife of the late
Cocil Moore, mether to
Pamela and Richard,
grandmother of Tanya and
David. Funeral Service on
Friday 30th April at
9.30am at St Faiths
Crematorium. Family
flowers only but donations
in tieu for R.N.L.I. may be
seat to Broadland Funeral
Services, 102 Norwich
Road, Wrozham, Norwich
NR12 SRY.

STOODLEY - Mary Ellen (née Thomas, 'Nell'). Much joved by son, Brian and Monica and beloved gran of Katy, Penny, Charity, Angharad and Christabel, died peacefully on April 25th aged 98. Funeral Service: 2 pm Tuesday May 4th at St Michael and All Angels Church. Berwick

Angels Church, Berwick, Donations to R.N.L.I. or flowers to Haine & Co., South Street, Eastbourne.

STALLYBRASS - Margaret
Rosa (Margo) née Bigiand.
On April 28th peacefully
in her 87th year at Kings
College Hospital. Beloved
wife of Bill, mother of
Andrew and Peter and
mother-in-law of Eliane
and Annie. Family
cremation at 11.00am
Saturday May 1st at West
Norwood Crematorium.
Memorial Service same
day at 2.00pm at All Saints.
Church, Rosendele Road,
West Dulwich. Flowers to
James W Constable F/D, 55
Honor Oak Park, Forest
Hill, Loadon SE23 1EA.
Tel: 0181 291 0811. WANTED Bost price paid. Please sent enquires & details to box 5739 TICKETS FOR SALE

roosy - Rits, pescefully 21st April. Greatly leved and missed by her extensive fan club. Funeral 3.15pm, 10th May, Reading Cremaforium, No flowers

please. Donations. Amnesty International.

WHITE - Françoise, formerly Rigby, on April 28th 1999 peacefully at Oxford Besumont Nursing Home. Funeral Directors Resves and Pain, tel 01885-242529.

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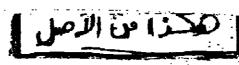
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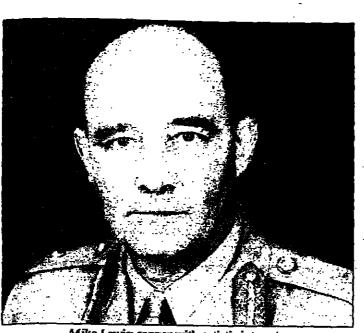
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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL J. M. H. LEWIS



Major-General J. M. H. Lewis, CBE, wartime sapper and staff officer, died on March 6 aged 79. He was born on April 5, 1919.

AFTER a varied war, in which he took part in the planning of Chindit operations in Burma, Mike Lewis ound himself in the early 1950s involved in the largest building project ever undertaken by the British Army. This was the construction in Germany of a new headquarters for Northern Army Group at Rheindalen, near

Joint Headquarters - JHQ for short - was designed to accommodate not only units of the British Army of the Rhine, but also German and Dutch elements of the army group. Since Germany was the most important Cold War posting for the British Army, it required the construction of what amounted to a small town to house 9,000 families of serving military personnel. When it was completed, to drive through the barrier at Rheindalen was to pass out of the countryside of the Lower Rhine plain into an English small town atmosphere, complete with red-brick houses, familiarly named streets, shops and neatly trimmed civic flowerbeds.

The site at Rheindalen had been virgin woodland at the end of 1952 when work began, yet the whole complex was ready by July 1954. During these two years Lewis was principal staff officer to the chief ngineer in charge of the venture, Colonel Harry Grattan, who had rebuilt Quetta after the earthquake of 1935. Lewis was appointed OBE

for his work on the project.

John Michael Hardwicke Lewis
was the son of Brigadier Sir Clinton Lewis, a sapper who became Surveyor-General of India. He went from Oundle to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1939.

In 1940, being a highly proficient skier, he resigned his commission to serve as a guardsman with the

5th Battalion Scots Guards, a special unit in which all members had to be able to fight on skis. It was raised to support the Finnish Army against the Soviet Union which had invaded Finland in November 1939. But before the unit could sail the Finns had been defeated and Lewis returned to the

life of a sapper officer.

Later in 1940 he joined the 18th
Division, which was sent to Singapore. In February 1942, a few days before the fall of Singapore, he was one of the few selected to escape in the very limited shipping available. Selection was based on the potential usefulness of the individuals to the war effort elsewhere.

After a hazardous journey via Sumaira and Java, with the Japanese never far behind, the party requisitioned a flat-bottomed Chinese river steamer and with a scratch crew set off for Ceylon. They arrived safely despite three near-misses by Japanese torpedoes. Lewis was next sent to India to Wingate's Chindit headquarters. There, and later in Burma, he was involved in planning special forces operations until the war ended. After the construction of JHQ in

Germany he served as second in command of 22 Engineers Regi-ment in Tripoli, after which he had two years as Commander Royal Engineers in Gibraltar. There, helped by his wife Barbara, he devoted his spare time to the historic library, which had been founded by Pitt the Younger, and is housed in a fine Georgian building. Neglect had led to serious deterioration of valuable books, and Lewis set about getting the library into good order and arranged the installation of air-conditioning to

prevent further damage.

Among his later jobs were two years on the international military staff of Nato, based in the Pentagon, which gave him an insight into the differences in the approach to defence problems taken by the Americans, French, Germans and other Nato allies. His final appointment was as Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) at SHAPE. There, in the words of a contemporary. "He managed the usual tightrope of relations with the Americans and Canadians on the one hand, and the European members on the other, with singular skill and grace." He had been advanced to

CBE in 1970 and retired in 1975. In retirement Lewis devoted himself to his interest in art, which stemmed from his coming from a family which had produced five generations of professional artists. He published three books: Michiel Marieschi: Venetian Artist (1967); J. F. Lewis, RA, 1805-1876 (1978); and The Lewis Family: Art and

Travel (1992). The study of J. F. Lewis led to his being invited to address the Royal Academy. He was also a regular lecturer for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. From time to time, too, his views were sought by auction houses and by scholars.

Mike Lewis is survived by his wife Barbara, and three sons.

GEOFFREY WIGODER

Geoffrey Wigoder, author and encyclopaedist, died in Jerusalem on April 9 aged 76. He was born in Leeds on August 3, 1922.

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GEOFFREY WIGODER was part of the small Anglo-Jewish elite who went to the newly founded state of Israel in the late 1940s to help to shape its intellectual and professional life. In Jerusalem he teamed up with his Oxford mentor, the Anglo-Jewish historian Cecil Roth, to make his mark as an encyclopaedist. They produced the one-volume, 2,000page New Standard Jewish Encyclopaedia, which remains an indispensable companion for students of the Holy Land. Ten years later, in 1966, they set to work on the 16-volume Encyclopaedia Judaica, one of the major Jewish cultural achievements of this

century. In each case Wigoder started as Roth's deputy, but on his death in 1970 he took over as editor-in-chief. For the Encyclopaedia Judaica he scoured the world for experts on the most abstruse reaches of Jewish learning. He marshalled an army of 1,800 contributors who ranged from a rabbi in Puerto Rico to a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The Encyclopaedia is on the shelves of every academic and many a suburban and provincial general library.

He came well primed to the task. Geoffrey Bernard Wigoder was the son of a dental surgeon in Leeds, a first-generation immigrant from Lithuania. He went to Leeds Grammar School, and moved from there to study medieval Jewish history at Trinity College Dublin. After gaining his MA, he went on to Oxford to do a

With that he joined the Jewish Theological Seminary. the conservative rabbinic training coffege in New York. The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and his chance meeting at the seminary at about that time with a young lady called Devorah Mc-Dwyer cut short his ambition to be a rabbi.

After marriage the couple settled in Jerusalem where

Wigoder's first job was in the English department of the Israel Broadcasting Corporation. He soon took charge of all its overseas operations, became a BBC correspondent and wrote for The Yorkshire

To supplement his salary. Wigoder joined the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and set up its oral history department, as well as becoming director of Israel's Film Archive on Mount Scopus (his personal collection of films and videos ran into thousands).

After the Encyclopaedia was published, he went on writing scholarly works, such as Jewish Art and Civilisation. The Story of the Syna-



gogue and Jewish Christian Relations in World War II. as well as newspaper columns for The Yorkshire Post, The Jerusalem Post and many others. He also helped to found the Israel Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

In his late sixties he ducked retirement and set out to carve a new career for himself in Christian-Jewish relations. He was a regular contributor to the Catholic weekly The Tablet, and only last year he gave the Cardinal Bea Lecture in London.

As a companion he was fun as well as formidable. And he remained at heart an expat Briton, reading The Times every day, sending cuttings from it back home to his sister, the actress Thelma Ruby, and refusing to go bed on a Saturday night without news of that day's result from Leeds

United. His wife survives him, along with two sons.

AL HIRT

Al Hirt, trumpeter, died on April 27 aged 76. He was born on November 7, 1922.

ike his fellow-horn player Harry James, Al Hirt was a formidable and versatile technician who found a lucrative niche in showbusiness. Relucant even to accept the label of jazz musician, he preferred to describe himself as a "pop commercial" performer Based in his native New Orleans, he remained a talismanic figure in "Dixieland" jazz, a style which continues to attract a huge following without much in the way of media coverage.

His club, Bourbon St South. was for many years one of the city's landmarks. Hirt played for thousands of visitors intent on discovering something of the roots of the Big Easy's musical heritage. When he pulled down the shutters for the last time in 1983, blaming the rising crime rate for a fall in the number of tourists, he found himself at the centre of controversy, and subsequently apologised to the mayor over the tone of his remarks. Nevertheless, he continued to perform at venues in the French Quarter, and when Pope John Paul II visited the city four years later, it fell to Hirt to play Ave Maria in his honour.

The son of a policeman, Alois Maxwell Hirt studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, a grounding which stood him in good stead in later years, when he recorded a Haydn Trumpet Concerto with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Nicknamed "Jumbo", he was a physically imposing individual. His powerful attack is said to have been the result of learning to play a pawnshop trumpet which had been damaged during makeshift repairs and which as a result required exceptional lung power.

An admirer of Harry James and Roy Eldridge, Hirt played in swing bands after serving in the Army. He went on to work with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Ray McKinley, among others, before deciding to return to New Orleans. Traditional jazz was enjoying a revival at this point, and along with the clarinettist Pete



Al Hirt performing at a music festival in Kansas City in 1963

Fountain. Hirt began to build a strong following. in the early years, however, he and Fountain made ends meet by taking day jobs as exterminators with the A&M pest control company. Their partnership continued on and off for decades after Fountain settled

into his own club at the Hilton. Hirt's transition to national fame at the end of the Fifties included appearances on the immensely popular Lawrence Welk Show on TV and regular bookings in the high-paying lounges of Las Vegas. By 1961 he was performing at the inauguration of President

Kennedy. He enjoyed spectacular sales as a solo artist on discs such as Horn A-Plenty, and was also regularly paired with performers as varied as Ann-Margret. Honey in the Horn, released in 1963, reached No 3 in Billboard's album charts that year. His debut at Camegie Hall two years later yielded another successful recording, by which time he had also veered towards the country

market with his hit Java. in 1970 he suffered a lip injury — always a serious problem for a trumpeter —

struck by a brick during a Mardi Gras parade. It was some months before his playing returned in all its vigour.

Defiantly unfashionable, Hirt had an indirect hand in nurturing what has become the most famous dynasty in jazz - the Marsalis clan of New Orleans. The planist Ellis Marsalis was a member of Hirt's band in the Sixties. and it was during an engagement at Bourbon St South that Hirt - seated at a table with two greats. Miles Davis and Clark Terry — gave Marsalis's young son, Wynton, his first trumpet. Wynton Marsalis later recalled that Davis told Hirt: "Don't give it to him. Trumpet's too difficult an instrument for him to learn."

Hirt and his first wife, the late Mary Patureau Hirt, had eight children. He leaves a widow. Beverly.

ROLAND HUNT

Roland Hunt, CMG. diplomat, died on March 24 aged 83. He was born on March 19, 1916.

ROLAND HUNT'S career spanned the turbulent period of the ending of the British Empire and the beginning of the Commonwealth. served in many parts of the world, and his experiences ranged from trying to prevent the island of Anguilla from breaking away from St Kitts and Nevis to commentating on cricket in Pakistan.

Roland Charles Cohn Hunt was born in his grandparents' Highgate house, shortly after his father's capture on the Western Front. He and his two brothers were brought up in an austere Oxford home where his mother ran a very tight ship; even her knitted socks could be found stored and labelled ('Roland 1925'). After the war, his father became an inspector of schools in Oxfordshire.

The Hunt boys were educated at the Dragon School, where Roland revelled in classics, cricket, music and acting: as Laertes he scored an unscripted victory over Hamlet when the graveside fight led to the Prince's retirement with a bloody nose. He went on to Rugby with a scholarship. continued to act, and toured Scandinavia in Shakespeare. He then won a scholarship to The Queen's College, Oxford, where his curly hair moved one elderly don to regret that Hunt was not a girl.

in 1938 Hunt joined the Indian Civil Service, then spending a year on "Empire Studies" at Oxford, which encompassed horse-riding in the Parks, but no political education beyond talk about troublemakers hoping for independence. Hunt realised that a career in India was likely to be brief, and when war broke out he applied to join up but was told that governing India was more important. Accordingly he was shipped out, followed in a highly irregular manner by his wife Pauline, whom he

had married that September. His career in India was indeed foreshortened, lasting until 1947. He enjoyed his spell at the hill station Coonoor where the tigers still roamed. though his work as a collector meant sometimes going down into gardens to collect the taxes hidden in holes in the ground. But by 1946-17, Hunt vas in the Secretariat in Madras, living in a spacious house overlooking the Adyar River and trying to ensure that the supply failures which had caused the great famine were not repeated.

Leaving India, he entered the Commonwealth Relations Office and was sent to South Africa, where he helped to negotiate the Simonstown Treaty, which secured collaboration between Britain and South Africa after the withdrawal of the Royal Navy

from its base there. In his final report home in 1955, he forecast that the apartheid regime would not survive for long. Malaya was one of the few

Commonwealth countries to gain independence in the 1950s. As Deputy High Commissioner there, Hunt struck up such a good relationship with the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, that when Benjamin Britten's entry to the competition for a new national anthem arrived, the Tunku descended upon his cottage and insisted that Hunt play it on the piano.

Agreeing that it would not do, they tentatively proposed some modifications and returned the score to Britten. No more was heard, and a local dance tune was chosen

In 1962 Hunt returned to



Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner, working partic ularly with British companies involved in civil engineering projects, and trying to ease Indo-Pakistan relations, which blew up into another war in

In that year he became High Commissioner in Uganda, where relations between the Prime Minister. Milton Obote, and the Kabaka of Buganda - "King Freddie" were dangerously tense. Unfortunately, the Kabaka made a public visit to the High Commissioner's residence to appeal for British succour for his regime, making it seem that Hunt supported his cause. As a result the Kabaka was exiled to Britain, where he died after completing his memoir The Desecration of My

Kin2dom. On his return to Whitehall in 1967, having been appointed CMG, Hunt worked on what were then less controversial issues, such as Caribbean banana quotas and relations between the Falkland Islands and Argentina.

He was made High Com-missioner in Trinidad in 1970, and enjoyed a peaceful period in this final posting until 1973. He and his wife had a special way of hosting parties any where in the world, usually with music and acting games. and preferably coinciding with the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. His wife died in 1989. He is

survived by three sons and two daughters.

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THE SALMON POOL

SPRING has been late this year, cold and wet Even by mid-April the alder buds were little more than buds, and only the primroses. which grow so quickly on the red sandstone, and the anemones, and the colour of the buds not yet unfolded, show that it is spring and not winter. And all the time violent showers of To the salmon fisher the rain is at once a

blessing and a curse. The usual cold, dry, bright Easter means no water, either no fish, or fish which will not rise. Therefore it was a pleasure to see the full river. But, alas! if it once begins to rain the habit, like other bad habits, is apt to continue. So, when the river is falling and clearing, and one hugs oneself at the thought of the sport to come, it again rains heavily on the hills, the river rises again and

heavily on the hills, the river rises again and colours, the fish start once more on their poward journey, and there is no take till the water falls again — which may be when the fisherman has gone sadly back to London.

Still and all, the rain, though it came down capriciously and spoiled what might have been a record, did give us three days of glorious sport. And it gave us what is the essence of salmon fishing, the sense of

ON THIS DAY

April 29, 1925 当企制起

A typical "feature" of prewar days when there were no pictures, and no double column headings to embellish articles on nature, fashion, gardening. motoring, science and so forth.

fighting with the elements, which makes February and March fishing so attractive, but which is often denied to the Easter fisherman. Your dry-fly man wants as little wind as possible — the trout must be approached with delicacy and accuracy — the day must be calm

and bright.
But the salmon is a mighty, fierce fish, and half the pleasure in pursuing him is the sense of power with which the heavy rod forces the fly over the tumbling river into the wind. exactly to the place where it should go.

Therefore, if he gets three days out of ten when the water is right, if the lish are taking, and if the fight with the elements leads to victory, the salmon lisher is a happy man.

The first pool is fished more by routine than with hope of success. It used to be good, but the bank has fallen in, and not many fish have been caught there lately. We do not spend much time on it, but shuffle as quickly as we much time on it, our sinthle as quickly as we can in our waders to the second, a small pool called, oddly enough, the Luggage Pool, because (as is carefully explained) "some collegians who were camping out on the bank once lost all their luggage there." It is difficult wading among the big boulders, but one need to be far It is me of those places which for not go far. It is one of those places which, for some unknown reason, salmon seem to like so much - where two main streams meet in a V. The fly is cast beyond the farther stream, the rod held well out, and the fly hung so that it swings round into the point of the V. One cast, two casts, three casts; then, as the fly comes round. a gleam of gold, not silver, for the water is still slightly coloured, and the scream of the reel. "You didn't see him the first time." says the gillie, as he prepares the gaff, to the fisherman struggling painfully to shore with the point held high. And I was glad I had not. Who knows but that I would have struck too soon? Three leaps, a stubborn struggle, and he is on the bank - 19lb.

<u>6</u>

中国的企业

Preview: A big new series offerine

"a natural history of the solar system", no less. The Planets (BBC2 9.00pm) Review: Just how dispirit-

ing was the opening show of Hale

and Pace's new variety series. h&ne

No present alternative

Hague cannot simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissi-

pate. Profound damage has been

done. He needs to take personal

control of his policy review. He can-

not assume that there will be no re-

alistic alternative to his command

for ever

Mind the gap

OPINION ...

..Pages 50, 51

.....Page 23

te^{iness. page} 31

■ William Hague battled for his political life last night by delivering a pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance. As he struggled to contain the crisis that has hit his leadership only days from the most important elections since the Tories lost office, Mr Hague met all Tory MPs and promised to consult them more in future....

Draskovic is dismissed

■ Vuk Draskovic, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister yesterday. His sacking came days after he publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government in Belgrade to stop lying

Tory poll blow

Support for William Hague has Thousands of bright children are dropped sharply among Tory supporters, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, according to a MORI poll. This is a further blow as Mr Hague tries to as-....Page 2 sert his authority...

Millionaire accused

A millionaire paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday. Derek Goldsmith wanted care of their son and daughter, it was alleged ... Page 3

Green site battle

A town that saw one of the fiercest A distinguished surgeon who was environmental battles of recent years was yesterday facing another upheaval after Vodafone won approval to build its world headquarters on a green site....Page 4

Fiancé's grief

The fiance of the murdered TV presenter Jill Dando spoke of his grief and incomprehension at her death. "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning and as perfect as Jill."......Page 5

Ode to a new era

ACROSS

1 Theologian has a hard conclu-

sion to ponder (6).

4 Not being served some egg or cream (3-5).

10 One polishes off something to

11 Ruler absolutely banning son in

military HQ (5).

12 Pronounced downfall of regime

13 Independently ring three times

with different directions (2.4.3).

14 Liberal planning Norfolk holi

day? (5-6). 16 Archbishop of Canterbury once

18 Fairy 16 finally has sex change

20 Heavy re-edit ordered? Come

needed up front for pastries (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,089

half lost in the wood (3).

off it! (3,4,4).

read on beach (9).

Poetry was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome when Simon Armitage was appointed poet-in-residence. He will spend six months on a 1,000-line ode to

the West Bank over the past two

tribunal was told

days has added urgency to Israel's which moved into top gear with the launch of television cam-**Nuclear secrets stolen** Almost every nuclear weapon in

the US was compromised when a

Revenge of the swots

let down by schools and ostra-

cised by classmates as "swots", ac-

cording to MPs who say succes-

sive governments have neglected

the most able pupils in their ef-

forts to raise standards.....Page 8

The Lord Chancellor faced a fresh

onslaught over legal aid cuts

when the Bar turned its wrath on

him. The Bar is urging the Gov-

erriment to amend the Access to

Justice Bill to preserve legal aid

for vulnerable groups Page 10

made an OBE for helping to save

Lord Tebitt's wife after the Bright-

on bomb was dismissed after a se-

ries of life threatening blunders

during operations, an industrial

The wounding of eight Israeli sol-

diers in Lebanon and another in

Poll in the balance

Surgeon tribunal

The Bar v Irvine

scientist suspected of spying for China transferred data from a se-

The prince and the pawpaw Fresh research into a Van Dyck masterpiece suggests that homegrown tropical fruit may have been everyday fare on the royal dining table in the time of Charles I. A pawpaw featured in the painter's The Five Eldest Children of Charles I (1637) is believed to be the earliest recorded image of the exotic fruit, discovered in the early 17th century, in this country.......Page 11

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,090

muddle (5).

Expression of surprise about

piece from Gondoliers (9). 26 Tragic scene of evil, in English tradition (8).

Leaves producer in American ski resort (5).

Finally dance, as a finishing touch (3,4,7).

6 Daughter needs to change in manner when woeful child ap-

7 Sue has one extra place inside 8 Taken in, defeated - executed

9 Work both ways to locate issue

for one's counterpart (8,6).

15 Wife and child I left only roof as

17 Statesmen arranged financial re-

view (5,4).

19 Enemy, father said, may give us the slip (4-3).

21 It could give girl lift, on getting engaged at last (7).

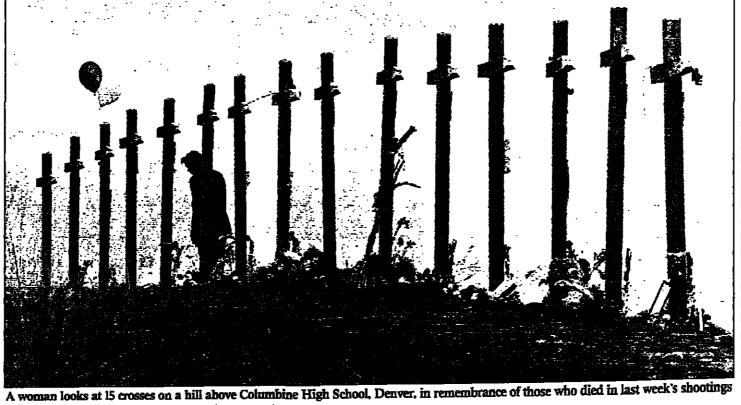
22 Appropriate fabric provided by mate of this seamon? (5).

mate of this seaman? (5).

23 Short spell in which I relax here? (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

pears (9).



Nethercott knew: Ray Nethercott, the Allied Carpets managing director who surprised the City by resigning last Friday, knew about the accounting irregularities that shook the retailer last year, it was Page 27 claimed yesterday Henry sacked: National Power, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive, Keith Henry......Page 27

Lifeline thrown: Laura Ashley has been cast a second financial lifeline by the billionaire Dr Kay Peng Khoo who stands to take control of the ailing retailer.....Page 27 Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 5.2 to 6598.8. The pound fell 0.11 cents to \$1.6153 but rose 0.03p against the

euro to 65.84p. The sterling index

was unchanged at 104.1.....Page 30

Football: The FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio communicationsPage 49 Cricket: The first championship match of the season at Canterbury

had everything that a Kent support-

er could ask for except a more en-

couraging performance from their Snooker: John Parrott paid tribute to the abilities of Ronnie O Sullivan after he was beaten by him in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship......Page 50 Bryant's Eye: Who knows what pole vaulters get up to when they are halfway to heaven and ready to freefall back to earth? It's not so easy to catch them if they bend the

☐ Lakes, lold, Cent M, NE England, SW

Cinema 1: David Cronenberg's new movie eXistenZ is an amiably intriguing sci-fi romp, while Neil

Jordan's thriller In Dreams has aPage 36 knockout opening.... Cinema 2: The famous Julia Roberts smile is firmly in place as she talks about playing a filmstar in the new romantic comedy Notting Hill opposite Hugh Grant......Page 37 Play time: Cate Blanchett delivers all the dramatic goods in the Almeida Company's revival of David Hare's Plenty, plus a bizarre Lear and a musical in Page 38 Nottingham

Bad news: How the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the murder of Jill Dando. Plus The Place's John Ashworth, godfather of modern dance

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES **■** MEDIA Proving the critics wrong: David Yelland, left, talks about his year. at The Sun **■ EDUCATION**

American children who fail basic tests are being forced into classes during the summer.

rey First, Argylic cloudy, locally misty for a while; light rain; brighter, sunny spells later. Light ver wind. Max 16C (61F).

Disordrs, E'burgh & Dundes, Aberdess cloudy start, some sun by afternoon. Main dry. Light variable wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ NE, NW Scotland, Orlaney, Shetland: overcast, misty with occasional rain and hill log. Mod SW or W wind. Max 13C (55F).

□ N Ireland: cloudy for a while; surny spells later. Mod N to NE wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ Infath Rep: early mist. then bright, sunny spelle; cloud in N. Light var wind. Max 21C (70F). ☐ Outlook: early mist in south tomorrow, then some sun; showers will edge across Channel. Rain in N will then spread to other areas; then cooler, showery in north.

0 05

FEATURES

has revealed structural differences in the brains of aggressive offenders with mental disorders," says Dr a biological basis for violence in the mentally disturbed? Plus, bowel cancer, the hay-fever season; multiple sclerosis Go, Maggie: In the fourth extract from his memoirs, George Walden describes how Parliament, the Totime for Margaret Thatcher to step down.

THATEL ... Best buys: Villas and apartments in converted farmhouses in Tusca-

China's leaders allowed the peace-

in Beijing to go on all day because the group represents a popular social movement. China's leaders are hoping to control a phenomenon which presents a challenge of uncertain dimensions to Communist Party rule. — The New York Times

Mad and bad: "New brain imaging Stuttaford. So will researchers find ries and the country realised it was

Plus, reviews by Roger Scruton; Malcolm Bradbury; Peter Preston; Jonathan Dimbleby; Russell Celyn .. Pages 40, 41

ny; cruising in the Far East for five .Page 44 days...

ful sit-in led by a Buddhist Law sect

BOOKS Balkan hatred: The importance of myth and symbol for the Serbs.

The Lord Chancellor's worthwhile reform of legal aid should not be blighted by the perception that it benefits the many at the expense of a deserving few..... Page 23

Good business sense

For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think

ANATOLE KALETSKY

But at the Washington seminar I had a revelation. I think I began to understand what the Third Way was about Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

It may come to be known as the Mandelson Effect, a formula whereby the addition of the words Peter Mandelson to any political speculation causes an immediate chemical reaction, a fizzing noise, lots of smoke and a powerful smell of rotten eggs.....

MICK HUME

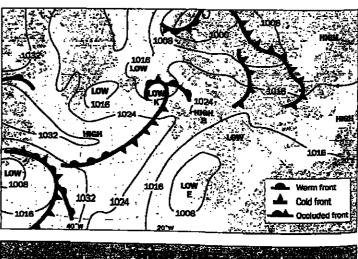
Miss Dando was dearly no Diana. more Tesco Metro than Harvey Nicks. Yet those trying to recreate the morbid effusion whipped after the death of the Princess insist that they were both like "the girl next door"... ... Page 22

Major-General J.M.H. Lewis, wartime sapper; Al Hirt, trumpeter; Geoffrey Wigoder, author: Roland Hunt, diplomat..... Page 25

Plight of hapless Kosovans; George Walden's memoirs; man's "hybrid" ancestry; Tories and the free market; BBC Director-General: Pinochet extradition; EU patron saint: names fitted to jobs; businessman's trip to Mir

·阿娃_{ard}

Changes to chart from noon: low E fills in situ; pressure remains on the low side across much of central and S Europe. Low K moves east, deepens; high B loses its identity



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Total number of lives saved so far this year: Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: Cost to RNLI per day:

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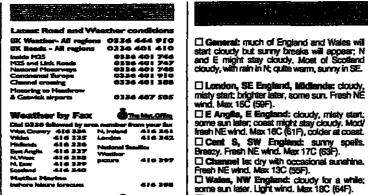
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TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and prunted and ficensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London El 90N, elephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Killing Road, Preson, Merseyslake L34 91N, telephone 0151-546 2000, Thursday, April 29, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.



AA Car reports by fax

old record's high class (5).
25 Unaccompanied, about to sing 8.19 pm 5.40 am

Believe it may need extending, if one's short (6). London 8.19 pm to 5.35 am Bristol 8.29 pm to 5.45 am Edinburgh 8.47 pm to 5.33 am Manchester 8.34 pm to 5.38 am Penzance 8.37 pm to 6.01 am One that's near getting fit for blue (9).

2 Skin spots fast disappear when iodine's absorbed (7).



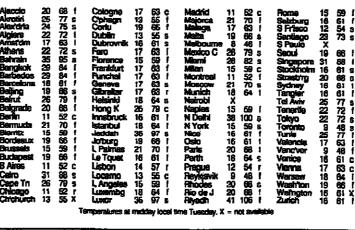
SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material

NEWSPAPERS



EREE BOOKS

0 01 Yesterday: highest day temp: Lianbedr, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Tynemouth, and Leeming, 8C (46F), highest rainfall: Wick, 0.08ins; S highest sunshine: Manchester 14.2hrs





Cost to taxpayer: To make a donation, telephone:

Business, page 31

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AMATOLE KALEY

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Jude and the Obscure

Arts, page 36

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

Nat Power chief goes in shake-up

By Christine Buckley INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive and is to review strategy in an effort to revive flagging confidence in the company.

National Power also gave warning yesterday that it was reviewing its dividend policy, which is expected to result in a substantial cut, and that profits would be hit by the sale of the Drax power station. The sacking and shake-up have reignited bid speculation in the City and the shares rose 15p to 496%p.

Keith Henry was told to go by the board after a series of apparent U-turns in National Power's strategy, a poor performance in the share price and mounting criticism from investors and unions.

Mr Henry, who joined the generator four years ago from Brown & Root, is expected to get a pay-off of nearly £1 million. Last year he earned an £859,924 package and was given performance-related shares worth £313,000. He has 244,898 share options but 49,882 of those have a strike price higher than the current share price.

Although National Power said that Mr Henry resigned, it is understood that he did not want to leave but was given no option at a boardroom showdown on Tuesday.

down on Tuesday.

His departure comes at a difficult time for National Power as it seeks to find a buyer for Drax. After yesterday's warning, analysts now expect annual pre-tax profits to be cut by £100 million a year once the sale of Drax is completed, although the station contributed £200 million to operating profits in the year to March 3t. The generator is also to review its capital structure, triggering ex-



Henry: told to go by board



Collins: long look at strategy

pectations that it could mount a share buyback after the sale

Things started to go wrong for National Power in March last year when it issued a £130 million UK profits warning because of the end of the coal contracts. This was followed by an international profits warning in the autumn. The generator further shook confidence in February this year when it emerged that it had been in merger talks with United Utilities. National

Power had always said it didn't want a full regional electricity business, let alone a water and electricity business such as United. A search is now on for a suc-

A search is now on for a successor to Mr Henry. Sir John Collins, the non-executive chairman, is to act in an executive role until an appointment is made while Graham Brown, the managing director, will become chief operating officer. Sir John, who is chief executive of Avestey, wants someone with different skills to those of Mr Henry. Mr Henry was seen as a build and buy chief executive whose vision was unhinged by the Government's order to sell power stations and by the changing UK electricity market.

One name likely to be in the frame is John Devaney, former head of the Energy Group, who left the company shortly after its takeover by Texas Utilities. Mr Devaney would be seen as more focused and determined than Mr Henry, who has for long been compared unfavourably with the forthright Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen.

man of PowerGen.

Sir John said: "I will be taking a long look at the strategy and seeking the right person for the job. We will take as much time as necessary."

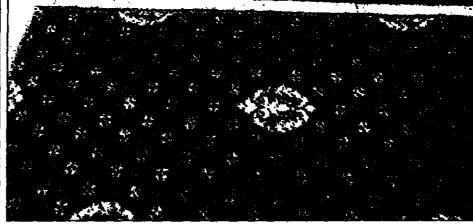
Peter Atherton, analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said Mr Henry's removal put National Power properly into play as a bid prospect after months of expectation because of its poor performance. He said: "The management team has disappointed the investment community too much over the past 16 months."

tary of the AEEU, said: "It is to be hoped that National Power now achieves stability and purpose. The company clearly has enormous potential but that has not been achieved yet."

National Power is to set its final dividend at 19p (18p), making a total of 28.6p (27p).

Nethercott sacked over 'scam'





David Pout, left, with Ray Nethercott, who was sacked by Allied Carpets on Friday

Managing director lied to the board, says chairman

By Fraser Nelson

RAY NETHERCOTT, the managing director of Allied Carpets who quit the company last Friday, was sacked it emerged yesterday for allegedly lying repeatedly about his part in the accounting scandal that hit the company last year. Julian Lee, chairman, said the board has evidence to

prove Mr Nethercott was aware about a "phantom sales" scam that came to light in July last year. Mr Nethercott has had his contract terminated without compensation. Mr Lee said: "I had always thought I had known Ray quite well, but clearly I didn't. He

told the board he had no idea about the goings-on. I was extremely surprised and shocked to learn this was not the case." It is unclear whether Mr Nethercott may be liable to prosecution by allegedly misleading Arthur Andersen, the auditors who resigned over the affair. Paul Manser, partner at law firm Taylor Joynson Garrett, said Section 17 of the Theft Act, outlaws company directors making false statements with the intent of misleading shareholders. He added that Section 233 of the Companies Act states that directors who knowingly approve false ac-

counts are guilty of an offence.
Allied Carpets admitted last summer that its store managers had been marking a carpet as "sold" as soon as an order was placed. The practise, known as "pre-dispatching", is not illegal but violated company policy that sales should not be marked as completed until delivery. The scam flattered trading figures and led to £3 million charge against profits last year.

Eight months ago, David Pout, finance director, resigned with a £221,000 payoff. He said he had no knowledge of the scam. Steve Barber, sales manager also left with £156,000 compensation.

Commentary, page 29

Business Today

Commentary: Firme to pull the rug Stock market: Dil sets the pace Equity prices:



Graham Searjeanton false Messiahs

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Heart Sea Col.

Brent 15-day (Jul) \$16.10 (\$15.65)

London close ____ \$282.45 (\$282.15)

" denotes midday trading prices
Exchange rates ______Page 28

Chairman ready to underwrite Ashley issue

By Fraser Nelson

LAURA ASHLEY yesterday sold its loss-making US stores for just \$1 and was then cast a further financial lifeline by Dr Kay Peng Khoo, the company's Malaysian billionaire chairman, who has agreed to underwrite another rescue rights issue.

The £24.6 million rights issue is likely to see Dr Khoo raise the 40 per cent stake owned by his MUI Asia empire, to 60 per cent.

The sale of its disastrous US venture sees Laura Ashley retaining debts accrued of £34 million. Goldman Sachs, its merchant bank adviser, has been looking for a buyer since last September. The \$1 paid by its management is understood to have been the only offer received. It was told it was in danger of being put into receivership unless it sold the US

shops. Laura Ashley has already spent the £44 million it raised when it originally asked for Dr Khoo's help last year. It also had a £50 million bank overdraft facility which expired last Friday. The company has now negotiated a new £43 million overdraft facility which expires next April.

If there is no support for the 199 million shares being issued at 13p apiece then MUI and Dr Khoo will take them up. One analyst said yesterday: "The City institutions will not be climbing over each other to support this rights issue. The Malaysians are welcome to it."

Laura Ashley yesterday also reported a loss of £31.9 million for the year to January 30, an improvement on the £49.3 million loss last time.

Commentary, page 29

Unigate lifts bid for Terranova

UNIGATE, the food and dairy group, looked odds-on last night to win in its hostile attempt to take control of Terranova, the prepared foods business spum out of Hillsdown Holdings last year

(Robert Cole writes).

Unigate raised its 125p-a-share cash offer to 150p late yesterday, and revealed that it had secured a promise from Phillips & Drew, the pension fund manager, to support the new offer. The offer is final unless a rival bid comes in of 160p or more. P&D speaks for 13.1 per cent of Terranova.

Crucially, however, in late trading, Unigate raided the market to acquire a 29.9 per cent stake in Terranova for itself. Together with P&D's 13 per cent and 5 per cent acceptances on the earlier bid terms. Unigate can count support from 48 per cent of Terranova stock.

Terranova said it is "considering" the revised offer. Its rose to 148%p from 139p yesterday. Unigate added 13p to close at 438%p.

Business rate rises 'put City jobs at risk'

By MARTIN WALLER

LONDON businesses face having to pay an extra £800 million a year when the new business rate comes in from April next year, according to research by two respected property consultants. There are fears that significant job

losses will result.

Organisations such as the Corporation of London and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry are warning that the capital will be particularly badly hit this time

around.

Although the new rates have yet to be set, research by Gerald Eve and CB Hillier Parker suggests that Central London could have to find an extra £4 billion over the next five years. In the City, the evidence suggests that rates bills could rise by 70 per cent, while occupiers of new buildings could see

even higher rises. Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of London First, the inward investment agency, said a gradual phase-in of increased rates is essential if London is to compete with other European and world cities.

Opponents of the present system are also calling for an additional levy of ap for every pound paid across the country in business rates. This would be set aside in a special fund to alleviate the highest increases. Without any reform, said Mr

Without any reform, said Mr
O'Brien, "pressure may be renewed on existing businesses to
relocate outside central London. One major consequence of
this would be the potential loss
of a large number of jobs."

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EU to investigate Longbridge deal



By Sigrid Aufterbeck

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Union's Competition Commissioner, yesterday demanded that BMW produces evidence that its "Hungarian option" was ever a serious alternative to building its new Rover model at Longbridge.

new Rover model at Longbridge.

Mr Van Miert has called for the information as the Commission launches an investigation into whether the aid granted by the British Government to ensure production stays in Birmingham should be approved by Brussels.

approved by Brussels.

Speculation has increased that BMW's stated contingency plan of moving new Rover production to Hungary was just a ruse to squeeze financial support from the

British Government. The Department of Trade and Industry agreed last month to grant BMW, Rover's German parent, aid of about £150million.

of about El-Omillion.

Stefan Rating, a spokesman for Mr Van Miert, said: "Since the automobile industry is a sensitive sector with existing overcapacities, the limits that apply for subsidies are particularly tight. To be eligible for aid, BMW must prove that investing in Britain would be substantially more expensive than elsewhere outside the EU."

Jürg Dinner, a spokesman for BMW, said: "We had informal talks in Hungary about specific sites therebut we always made it clear that Longbridge was our preferred location."

Tony Woodley, the union negotiator at

Rover, said he was confident that BMW would have enough evidence to convince the Commission about the Hungarian option. "Once Mr Van Miert sees the facts, he will learn that there had been a serious competing bid from the Hungarian side."

If BMW fails to produce any evidence, opposition to the subsidy will mount. Wendelin Widukind, head of Porsche, threatened in March to challange the aid package. Only last week, Ford was eager to point out that production of a new model at its Dagenham plant, which will increase production there by two thirds, will be launched without subsidies.

Commentary, page 29

Rail firms 'must help little-used services'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRASER NELSON

ginning this summer.

FirstGroup respectively.

done at privatisation are

ing to need help. This is not a

The shift in strategy would

allow more open cross-subsi-

dy of loss-making lines by oth-

er companies within the same

rail group — prevented under rail regulations. For instance, Prism Rail's WAGN company

reported a £14 million profit.

while its Wales and West fran-

A spokesman for the Rail-

chise lost £4 million.

approach to a problem."

THE profits of Britain's richest train companies are set to be squeezed to save little-used rail services in Britain's more remote areas.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has refused new money to prop up loss-making rural services, some of which could be closed or replaced by buses

Instead he has told John Prescott, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, that any extra financial help offered to weaker companies must come from within the rail industry. clawed back from the most profitable train companies and from fines imposed on poorly performing operators. Mr Brown's ultimatum

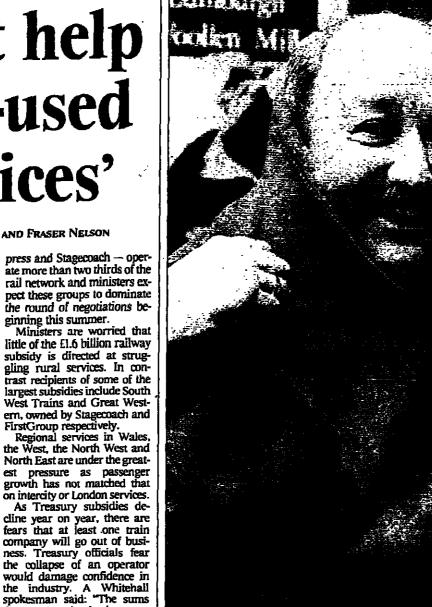
comes as most of the 25 train operating companies are preparing to renegotiate their licences and amid fears that some operators may be close to collapse.

Three bus and rail combines - FirstGroup, National Ex-

Buys 2577 21.86 64.36 25.73 9.57 10.42 3.129 521 13.38 17499 12487 7.04 3112 207.70 0.681 3.532 3.532 13.19

316.52 10.43 263.79 14.32 2.592 645852 1.727

EXCHANGE RATES



wrong. There is no point basing negotiations on spurious Colin Birrell, head of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shops, on which Grampian Holdings is figures and some firms are goto focus, along with its Malcolm transport operation, Grampian saw pre-tax profits of £10.3 climbdown but a pragmatic

Travis buys Keyline

By CARL MORTISHED

TRAVIS PERKINS is buying Keyline, the builder's merchant chain, from CRH for E181.5 million in a cash deal that will propel Travis Perkins to second in the builder's merchant sector in the UK.

way Forum, the rail industry's umbrella body, said: "The The fifth-largest chain in the UK with 101 branches, Keyline time has come for a careful assessment of how to provide socially necessary rail services. will enable Travis to consoli-Some of these companies need date its grip on the heavy side help but if a station is serving of the market (cement and bricks) and will strengthen its one passenger every three days it is fair to question position in the North and Scot-land. The combined group whether resources are being channelled in a way that best will have sales of £932 million. serves the rural community." or 11 per cent of the market.

CRH appointed Warburg Dillon Read to auction the business after the Irish company concluded that it could not achieve significant gains in the UK without a lengthy and ex-pensive struggle. Keyline has just 3.7 per cent of the UK building materials sector and

comparatively weak margins.
The decision by CRH to pull out of the UK merchant market signalled the final act in a struggle for dominance between the three largest players in the marker. Wolseley, Meyer and Travis Perkins.

Wolseley, which focuses on the light side of the market, selling plumbing and heating products, remains the market leader but Meyer has now been pushed into third. Both Wolseley and Meyer have made large acquisitions recentiv.

Travis Perkins yesterday predicted savings of £15 milsales of £309 million.

lion a year in the third year after the deal. with reorganisation costs of £7.5 million. Keyline had operating profits of £14.6 million last year after

The Bank reveals its policy models

By Alasdair Murray. ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England will today respond to criticism that it has taken a too mechanistic approach to setting monetary policy by publishing for the first time a full description of its economic models.

The Bank has at times come under fire for apparently relying heavily on its own economic models to fine-tune interest rates, and in particular, the forecasts contained its Quarterly Inflation Report.

However, the report today emphasises that the Bank adopts a "pragmatic and pluralist" approach to setting monetary policy with interest rates ultimately decided by the "judgments" of the MPC.

The report, Economic Models at the Bank of England, emphasises that aside from its core macroeconomic model, the Bank also uses a series of other smaller models to test and explore the complexities of the economy.

However, these models sim ply provide tools for the MPC and only form part of the decision-making process which also includes evidence such as reports from the Bank's regional agents.

"Just as spades on their own cannot dig gardens, models cannot make forecasts — still less decide, policy," the report

Even the quarterly inflation charts, which City analysts have often argued seem to dictate the Bank's interest rate decisions, only provide a general consensus on the outlook for the economy and some members of the Monetary Policy Committee may disagree with the conclusions.

The Monetary Policy Committee today also publishes a separate report describing how it views the potential impact of the interest rate deci-

sions on the economy.

The report, written in response to a request from the Treasury Select Committee, again emphasises that the Bank prefers a pragmatic approach to policy-making and that it does not adhere to any strict economic orthodoxy.



New watchdog plan for accountants

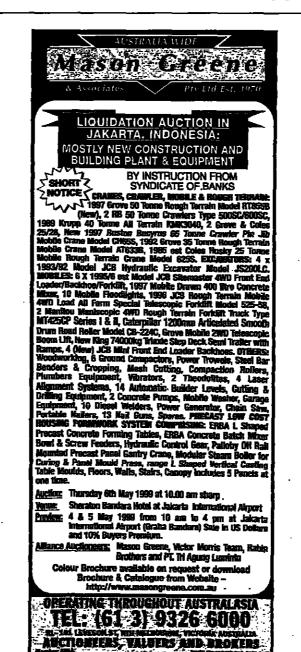
a thing of the past from the turn of the year when a new regulatory framework is implemented. The new regime will be majority-controlled by representatives from outside the profession.

Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry Minister, said yesterday that a new eight-person foundation will be set up to oversee regulation of the profession, while an independent review board will act a

SELF-REGULATION in the watchdog. "These new bodies accountancy profession will be will cover the investigation and prosecution of disciplinary cases in which there is a public interest. They will also cover the setting of auditing and ethical standards," said Mr McCartney. He added: "At least 60 per

cent of the membership of these new bodies will represent consumers and users of accountancy and be nominated by leading financial and consumer institutions."

Accountancy, page 33



BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Double for Stanley with £12.5m deal

STANLEY LEISURE, the bookmaker and casino operator, is to acquire Vickers Bookmakers, a privately owned company with 31 betting shops in the South West, for up to £12.5 million. The announcement came the same day as Stanley posted the offer document for its recommended £86.4 million acquisition of Capital Corporation, the London casino operator.

A fall in margins in its bookmaking division meant pre-tax profits in the year to May 2 would be "not less than £23 million" compared to analysts' forecasts of about £26 million. However, it said it expected margins to "return to normal levels over time". It said it was also positive over the effects of a draft order on casino deregulation laid before the House of Commons last week. The order calls for an increase in the number of jackpot machines per casino from six to ten, the introduction of limited advertising and further relaxation of membership conditions. Shares of Stanley lost 51/2 to 2481/2p.

Bioglan booming

BIOGLAN PHARMA, the recently floated skincare specialist, is expecing another year of strong growth after debut results that showed a 59 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.4 million Placed at 245p last December, Bioglan's shares yesterday climbed 4p to a new high of 340%p, valuing the business at £270 million. Bioglan's preferred measure of underlying earnings increased by 117 per cent to £9.2 million, on sales 86 per cent higher at £43.4 million. Earnings per share were 18 per cent lower at 2.62p.

Tempus, page 30

Sedgemoor sells out

SEDGEMOOR, the electronics and computer parts distributor, is selling up to Acal, its larger rival. The recommended bid is a mix of cash and paper which values Sedgemoor at 50.8p or £77.9 million. The offer of £10.65, plus one new Acal share for every 30 Sedgemoor shares, equates to a premium of 30 per cent to the 39p that Sedgemoor was trading at three months ago when it received the approach. Derek Crook, Sedgemoor chief executive, will be joining Acal.

Inchcape's online step

AN ONLINE car-buying service will today be launched by Inchcape, the car distribution company. Inchcape will base the Internet service on the brand and technology of Autobytel—the US online car-buying company quoted on the Nasdaq stock exchange—under a 20-year licensing deal. The service will let consumers compare prices and specifications of new and used cars from 250 Autobytel franchised dealers. They will also be able to download road tests and reviews of cars.

Vibroplant approach

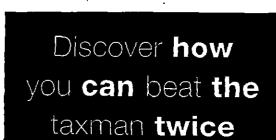
A LEAP by shares in Vibroplant has forced the plant hire group to admit receiving an approach by Jeremy Pilkington. chairman and chief executive, and Neil Stothard, finance director, with a view to taking it private at 70p to 75p a share. This would value Vibroplant at £32.3 million to £34.6 million. Mr Pilkington is a director of Ackers P Investment Company, Vibroplant's 51.3 per cent owner. The shares rose 7p to 65p.

Sony profit falls 20%

SONY has seen net profits plunge by nearly 20 per cent. The Japanese electronics group, maker of the Walkman personal stereo, reported net profit or the year to March 31 of Y179 billion (£927 million), down from Y222.1 billion the previous year. It forecast that its current-year net profit will fall to Y110 billion as sales begin to wane for the PlayStation games cone, which generates nearly 40 per cent of operation

Scottish Radio buys

SCOTTISH RADIO, the radio group whose main interests are Radio Clyde and Radio Forth, yesterday bought Parkin Advertising, a Bristol outdoor contractor, for £8.9 million. Parkin made pre-tax profits of £610,000 in its year to March 31, on sales of £3.59 million. Scottish will pay £8.7 million in cash, and £500,000 in shares. It said: "This is a positive step forward in our planned expansion in the outdoor sector."



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Int.Tel:+44 171 332 9400 suitable for all investors, therefore ensure you fully understand the risks involved and seek advice if necessary

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Note: National Residuo but



tilian Lee is not resigning as the chairman of Allied Carpets. Despite being an accountant and having been blissfully unaware of the long-running accounting irregularities that have caused Allied such difficulties. Mr Lee has no intention of deserting his shareholders. They may not find this a source of great comfort. Mr Lee remained in the chair of textile company Hollas as it descended

company Hollas as it descended into receivership. He took over as chairman of the business in 1993. In 1996 he was proclaiming that Hollas was on track to be a leading clothing supplier, despite appearances to the contrary. Less than two years later, it

Mr Lee may have been better able to take the disappointment than some of his shareholders: he had made £3 million after leading the buyout of Bricom from British & Commonwealth Holdings and selling it on. Brit-ish & Commonwealth, however, did not survive for much longer.

Mr Lee was the chairman of Allied Carpets when it came to mar-ket in 1996, the prospectus signed off by the chaps at Arthur Andersen, his old firm. If the auditors could not spot what was going on at Allied, then perhaps it was not surprising that the chair-man missed the trick. But Arthur Andersen is the company's auditor no longer.

If executives are out to hoodwink the auditors, they can often

Time to pull rug from under Lee

succeed. It happened at Wickes. for instance, where a complicat-ed system produced different in-voices for different audiences. The Allied accounting rules seem to have been such that Sherlock Holmes might have found it hard to spot the discrepancies.

As the £2 million black hole was exposed, executives bowed out but Ray Nethercott remained at his desk. He may not have been the best at selling carpets, but he excelled at keeping things under them. In August here under them. In August last year, as the Allied share price sank to 53p because of the scandal, he vowed that "the rebuilding process starts today". But it did not. Yesterday Allied was looking even more sickly, its shares at just 39p. Last year venture capi-talist Alchemy was proffering a bid at 55p but found its offer spurned after an initial friendly

reaction.
Shareholders will not see the like of that again. Allied's prob-lems now go well beyond its accounting systems and straight to sales. Lord Harris of Peckham would have taken the firm out of its misery if the competition authorities would have allowed. Instead of that, he is simply taking the business. The carpet king has

neering company, has made a

\$570 million (£356 million) rec-

ommended takeover bid for

Walbro, a petrol tank maker

The purchase, which is ex-

pected to enhance earnings

from next year, is aimed at ena-

bling TI to meet vehicle mak-

ers' demands for integrated

TI makes flowlines for trans-

porting fuel to the engine and Walbro specialises in tanks

made from advanced compos-

ite materials and petrol pumps.

before interest, tax, deprecia-

tion and amortisation (EBIT-

DA) of \$79 million last year

tion of assumed debt, most of which stems from Walbro's

heavy capital investment programme of the past three years.

.Ti will also incur a \$25 mil-

ny's change of control provi-

Sir Christopher Lewinton

the TI chairman, said that

about \$9 million of this would

be paid to Frank Bauchiero,

The total offer represents an earnings multiple of 7.2-times

Walbro's 1998 carnings on an

It is pitched at a premium of

more than 60 per cent to Wal-

bro's share price shortly be-

fore the hid was announced.

Walbro's chief executive.

EBITDA basis.

lion cost to buy out Walbro's management under that com-

from sales of \$678 million. The price includes \$388 mil-

Walbro reported earnings

listed on Nasdag.



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

no qualms about hitting a competitor when it is down and Carpetright is offering promotions that Allied cannot afford to

equal.

Mr Lee may have settled his ample frame into the managing director's chair, but he will need to move fast to fight Lord Harris.
Shareholders might feel inclined
to suggest that he bows out with
his managing director and does
not risk another Hollas.

What hope for lovelorn Laura?

here are celebrations all round at Goldman Sachs, as even the humblest telephonist looks forward to a hand-out of shares that should yield a hefty bonus in future years. Were she in kindly mood, she might contemplate blowing some of that future wealth in advance on a Laura Ashley outfit, That Laura Ashley is still

afloat is testimony to the remarkable skills of the investment banking house and its star turn, John Thornton, in particular. But the Malaysians who were persuaded to save Laura from bankruptcy by the then chair-man, one John Thornton, must be wondering what on earth they

saw in her.

Now MUI is faced with putting £25 million more into keeping the old girl afloat. Their intention must be that, once they emerge as the majority owners of the business, they will be able to take it private so that they can conceal further indignities from public view. Mr Thornton will then be absolved from his current non-executive directorship and be able to wipe out the whole sorry episode — if Sir Bernard Ashley will let him.

If the irrascible Sir Bernard had been able to accept that Ashley stopped being a family business the day it was floated, the picture might look very different

now. Instead, he interfered and the company suffered a rapid succession of managers.

The current incumbents face a difficult task, even if they will be soon addressing it away from the glare of the public spotlight. Laura may still have her fans, although by now they must be confused as to whether she stands for pretty prints or modern tailor-ing of the kind favoured by Anne Iverson. But shoppers are not splashing their money around, as Arcadia made clear yesterday. The tenor of the statement from the company was not quite as gloomy as the figures it reported, but chief executive John Ho-

the prospects on the high street. Arcadia has cut back its forecasts and is keeping prices in check.
Its high street chains may face a toughening up of the competi-tion as Philip Green gets to work on the Sears businesses that he now owns. Mr Green would find it hard to make a worse job of running them than the previous man-agement, but the chances are that he will soon be pocketing the proceeds from selling them on to others. Mr Hoerner must be wondering whether he should stand back and risk a sharper competi-tor getting hold of his rivals or dig deep and buy them himself.

Burns goes to extra time on penalties

teering the new Financial Services Act onto the statute books was never going to be an easy task but expecting Lord Burns to knock it into shape with-in just four weeks was asking the impossible. The former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is a man of many talents but distill-ing the concerns of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament over one of the more controversial pieces of proposed legislaerner was far from upbeat about tion would be a rushed job with a six-month timetable.

Lord Burns does not have the houry of that but he has been allotted another month. The issues of concern that have arisen were predictable. There is some worry over the definition of market abuse, a failing which is probably more easily discernible in practice than it is on paper. Those drafting the legislation feel sure that a Clapham ornni-bus-riding IFA or broker would recognise market abuse when he

met it.

The issue of greatest concern.
however, remains the disciplinary powers with which the new authority is to be endowed and the fears that these might amount to a breach of human amount to a breach of number rights. Lawyers have exhibited unusual generosity of spirit in pointing out their suspicions on this front now instead of waiting to take on the cases that might be generated were the Bill to go un-challenged. Lord Burns should use his extra time to ensure that the disciplinary system will be speedy and fair, even if this makes it more costly.

Subsiding subsidies

KAREL Van Miert's days as Competition Commissioner in Brussels may be numbered but he is not going to let that stand in his way now that the government subsidy for Rover has caught his attention. But as he huffs and puffs he might take note that be-tween 1995 and 1997 the average subsidy for each worker employed in manufacturing industry in Italy was 62,302 and in Germany it was €1,569. For the UK, the figure was just €381. The Long-bridge workers could argue that they deserve more.

stock after Christmas, but had

maintained its market share

Analysts are divided on the

share performance. Some

question whether a £3.7 mil-

tion charge for an internal shake-up should have been put as a one-off item. Others say Arcadia is being chased by

fans of its Internet retail serv-

ice, which has more than half

could not be described as good

profit figures by any streich of

the imagination, but they are

obviously better than some

Arcadia shares have fallen

14 per cent in the past ten days.

Basic earnings per share were 19.5p (31.2p). The interim dividend is held at 4.7p.

Tempus, page 30

the UK online market. Mr Hoerner said: "These

people were expecting."

Arcadia shares

rise despite

profits slump

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES in Arcadia yesterday rose 14 per cent as the Burt-

ons to Principles retail group

said it came out of the Christ-

mas sales slump in better shape than the City expected.

The shares jumped 32kp, to

272%p even though Arcadia turned in interim profits more than halved to £23 million (£50.3

The company said that its sales growth returned in Feb-

ruary and March, but stopped

short of giving a figure.

Arcadia had been expected

to be among companies hard-

est hit by the downturn in re-tail sales because it pays top rents for places in most UK

high streets and retail parks.

John Hoerner, chief execu-

tive, said that the group lost about 1.5 percentage points in gross margin to shift unsold

million).

ICI sells paints business to PPG

By CARL MORTISHED INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

IC) is selling an industrial paints business to America's PPG for £425 million in a deal that will further reduce its borrowings after this month's £1.4 billion sale of the titanium dioxide and polyurethane busi-

nesses to Huntsman. PPG is acquiring ICI's refinish coatings, used in vehicle damage repair, and Grow Automotive, a North American solvents and thinners business, as well as a variety of industrial coatings operations in Latin America and Asia.

The deal will contribute a pre-tax profit of £190 million for ICI and the deal will have a neutral effect on earnings over the next year. PPG has been attempting to build up its industrial coatings business over the past year, and earlier in ings business from ICI in

Germany. The US company lost out to Akzo Nobel in its attempted bid for Courtaulds and missed acquiring Herberts, the coatings business which was sold by Hoechst to DuPont.

ICI's debt burden, taken on when the company acquired Unilever's fragrance and flavourings businesses, will fall to £23 billion after the disposals to Huntsman and PPG. It is still seeking buyers for the halochemicals businesses and its acrylics business which together have

sales of about £1.5 billion.

TI tops up with Walbro of the US in £356m purchase By PAUL ARMSTRONG TI GROUP, the specialist engi-



TI chairman Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, with finance director Martin Angle. The deal includes \$388 million of debt

Sir Christopher said Walbro would meet TI's internal hurdle rate, which is a 15 per cent return on investment within three years of purchase. He said the deal would make TI the first company in the world to supply a totally integrated

fuel system. The composite materials used to make Walbro's tanks meant it would also be able to offer significant environmental advantages over its competitors. This was because there was less scope for hydrocarbons to escape. Sir Christopher said the integrated fuel TI from 11 per cent to 14 per systems business was worth \$6.5 billion a year, of which TI would have 15 per cent. Michael Blogg, an analyst

with Charterhouse Securities, said he had revised his 2000 forecast earnings growth for

cent on the back of the deal. Mr Blogg said TI could be expected to lift Walbro's margins significantly from the current level of about 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

M&S to Merger approach Canada

By Paul Armstrong

MARKS & SPENCER has ended its disastrous 26-year foray into Canada, announcing yesterday that it would close its 38 stores within a year.

The move, which will cost M&S £25 million, has placed a big question mark over the future of the group's stores out-side the UK, many of which

also incur heavy losses. M&S's Canadian arm has crawled out of the red just once since its creation in 1973, prompting questions from analysts yesterday about why the company was so slow in addressing the problem. It made an £8.3 million operating loss in the year to March

31, 1998. An M&S spokeswoman said the decision had been prompted by the expiry of many of the store leases held in Canada. A strategic review of M&S's activities is due to be unveiled lifts Partco

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Parton rose 30 per cent after the car parts and crash repair company reported it is in possible takeover talks for the second time in less than ten months.

The talks centre around a possible £178 million bid — 245p per share — for the company, representing a premium of 36 per cent to the closing share price on Tuesday, the day before the talks were announced Last year Partco rejected a £420 million merger approach from

Finelist Analysts yesterday ruled out Finelist as a possible suitor because of its weak balance sheet.
Another candidate is GE Capital, the US financial services company. Another possible bidder is Ford, which took over the Kwik-fit chain for £1 billion earlier this month. Partco is one of Kwik-fit's main car parts sup pliers. Shares in Partco closed up 531/2p yesterday at 2331/2p.

First Leisure and Cannons halt talks

By DOMINIC WALSH

TIMES www.fines-money.co.uk on the financial terms". A deal would have doubled Cannons's market value

A ScottishTelecom Company

CANNONS GROUP and First Leisure yesterday abandoned plans to merge their health and fitness businesses — just two days after announcing that they were discussing a deal. The merger, under which Cannons would have issued new shares to acquire First Leisure's fitness division. was terminated after the sides said they were "unable to reach agreement

to more than £500 million. Neither side would elaborate, although it is understood that the amount of debt First Leisure wanted to inject into the enlarged group was one of the issues. One analyst said: "Cannons is only in the market for deals that are earnings enhancing. What First Leisure brought to the table clearly wasn't earnings enhancing."

It is understood that three First Leisure executives would have joined the enlarged Cannons board, including Patrick Henchoz, the head of its fitness division. Mr Henchoz last week received £4.3 million from the sale of a minority stake in ISL Leisure, one of First Leisure's subsidiaries. First Leisure paid a total of £13.8 million to buy out the 23 per cent of ISL it did not already own, the balance of £9.5 million going to Nash Sells & Partners, the

venture capital group. Cannons, formerly known as Vardon. may consider a move on Pinnacle Lei-sure, which abandoned plans for a £70 million flotation last year and is considering a possible trade sale. Cannons

said: "Cannons is an acquisitive company and is the strongest pure health and fitness company in the market financially. There are plenty of opportunities." The failure of the talks heightens the

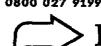
ressure on Michael Grade, the First Leisure chief executive. The sale had been expected to result in a break-up of the company. Analysts expressed con-cern at the lack of action. First Leisure shares closed down 71/2p at 246p while Cannons was unchanged at 1924p.

IOD convention, page 32 | in June.

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MICHAEL CLARK

Oil companies pump out good gains after reports

OIL shares took up the baton from telecom stocks by dragging the rest of the equity market back into positive territory after a nervous start.

Overnight support by American investors for oil-related companies set the pace reflecting the latest rise in the price of a barrel of oil. Sentiment was flavoured by a bullish report from the American Petroleum Institute which revealed that US crude oil stocks had fallen by 4.7 million barrels in the week to April 23. Year-onyear, crude stocks were also down 6.6 million barrels.

The report fuelled further gains for the price of oil on world markets where a barrel of North Sea Brent crude was changing hands at \$16.28. That is in stark contrast to the low of just under \$10 a barrel reached earlier this year.

Among the leaders, BP jumped 3612p to Ell.60. Shell 94p to 4544p. while among the exploration companies Ranger Oil stood out with a rise of 15p to 270p. Share prices generally lacked much of the sparkle seen earlier in the week despite a strong overnight performance by the Dow Jones industrial average and opening

gains last night.
The FTSE 100 index managed to reverse an early lo-point deficit and, at one stage, again breached the 6,600 level. But it was running out of steam towards the close following two consecutive days of impressive gains. In the event, it closed 5.2 up at a new high of 6,598.8. The FTSE 250 index also rose 5.0 to 5.813.7 as the total number of changing reached 1.18 billion.

The life assurance operators managed to post some useful gains with Prudential Cornoration climbing 50p to 9194p after highlighting the success of its Egg banking operation. It has achieved its five-year target plan of 500,000 customers and £5 billion of savings in just six months. Warburg Dilion Reed, the broker, has been pushing the Pru as a "buy".

Encouraging trading statements lifted Sun Life & Provincial 28%p at 577%p and Royal & SunAlliance 194p to 527%p. vanced 141:p to 4691:p. Speculative buying hoisted Independent Insurance 26p to 2581/2p.

British Airways firmed lp to 50412p after becoming the



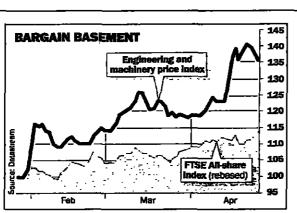
Frank Sytner, chairman, saw shares of Sytner Group rise 11p to 212p on the back of a positive annual meeting

first non-financial company to raise extra funds with an issue of euro-denominated fixed interest stock. The issue of €300 million (£200 million) has a nominal value of €25 and a fixed coupon of 6.75 per cent.

British American Tobacco put on 22p at 505p ahead of first-quarter results later today which should see pre-tax profits come in at between

£280 million and £295 million, down from £311 million. The profits warning from Stanley Leisure, down 51/2p to 2481/sp, where margins in its horse racing operation have come under increasing pressure also took a toll of rival

Ladbroke, 184p off at 2934p. J Sainsbury retreated 3½p to 400½p as HSBC Securities, the broker, reiterated its "re-



BARGAIN hunting is the name of the game these days. Some investors have been happy to plough their money into fashionable sectors such as drugs, telecoms and high-tech. Others would sooner seek out value among those companies left behind in the bull run.

Charterhouse Securities, the broker, maintains engineering and machinery is share by 10 per cent and reBut Michael Blogg, at Charterhouse, insists that there is still value to be had. Comments made by Bodycote International at the time of its results were misinterpreted and the shares, down 121/2p to 9871/p, have scope for im-

Others on his shopping list include FKI, up 11/2p to 174p. McKechnie, 5½p dearer at 4471/2p, and Vitec

target price of 350p for the shares. It has also lowered its rating for Tesco, lp lighter at 186%p from "hold" to "reduce" now that the price has reached

its target of 187p. An upbeat trading statement lifted Ocean Group 10p to 963p. Shareholders at the annual meeting were told that trading in the first quarter had lived up to expectations for the freight forwarder. The group is looking for suitable acquisitions to develop its air and sea freight activities. The price has more than doubled since hitting a low of 4721/p in October last year.

Bullish comments at the annual meeting had investors beating a path to Symer Group, up 11p to 212p. The mo-tor distributor says 1999 has got off to an encouraging start with profits well ahead of budget and the corresponding

period last year. But some cautious comments about current trading left United Carriers 214p off at 20½p. The haulier reported a decline in volumes but said it was too early to say whether it was temporary or a growing

AIM-listed Artisan (UK) touched 91/2p before ending 1/4p better at 8p. Rosenoble, a private company, has bought 12.8 million shares, or 15.4 per cent. At the same time, Stephen Dean, chairman, has bought an additional 929,135 shares for his adult children's family trust. He now controls 24.9 million shares, or 29.9 per

☐ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices were dealt a blow by the cool reception given to the latest auction of 30-year index-linked stock. The issue of £500 million nominal of Treasury indexlinked 2030 was only 94 per cent subscribed. Other indexlinked issues suffered with losses stretching to £4 in places. News of the auction also left

the June series of the long gilt nursing a loss of 38p at £116.08 as the number of contracts completed reached 44,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed 91p at £145.12, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p lighter at £105.76.

chips were mixed in early tradtrial average was up 14.03 points to 10.845.74.

TEMPUS

Fuelling fresh growth

TI GROUP should have little difficulty convincing the market that its \$570 million (£356 million) acquisition of Walbro is a winner. Once the jargon has been extracted, TI's concept is simple. To already makes the pipes which supply fuel from the perrol tank to the engine. Walbro manufactures petrol tanks. Putting the two together will enable TI to offer vehicle manufacturers a one-stop shop for fuel

delivery systems around the globe. TI, under the guidance of Sir Christopher Lewinton, has bought wisely. Its purchase price of \$20 a share represents a premium of 67 per cent over Walbro's share price prior to the deal. More relevantly the price is equivalent to 7.2 times 1998 earnings before interest. tax, depreciation and amortisation.

It is obvious that Walbro is not Wall Street's best friend. It has invested heavily - perhaps

excessively for a company of its size - in stateof-the-art manufacturing equipment but its shareholders have tired of the company's promises of jam tomorrow.

Moreover. Walbro's investment programme is responsible for the fact that \$388 million (£241 milion) of TI's purchase price is

assumed debt. However, Walbro shareholders' loss is Tl's gain. Walbro's production capacity leaves plenty of room for expansion and TI can draw on Walbro's technical knowledge. There is ample scope for TI to lift margins.

The acquisition is likely to be earnings neutral for Ti this year, leaving the stock trading on a prospective earnings multiple of 14 times. This represents fair value now, but the earnings boost which will flow from Walbro in 2000 puts TI on the buy list.

Arcadia

MAJOR INDICES

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DFS Furniture...

MAJOR CHANGES

Versalite n/p (05)

IT IS odd, even in these days of helter skelter share prices. Yet stock in Arcadia, the renamed and reformed Burton clothes shop, rose nearly 14 per cent yesterday. That made it the biggest riser on the day among the 350 largest

quoted companies.

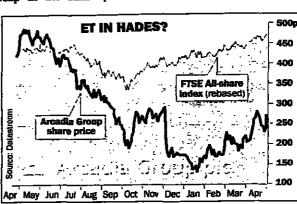
True, the share price has weakened in the past couple of days and part of yesterday's performance can be put down to a correction. Arcadia's reference to Internet trading may also have fired sentiment. But it must be becoming de rigeur these days for retailers to have healthy Web distribution channels. Internet exposure among serious retailers struggles, already, to be genuinely differentiating.

Yesterday's interim profit figures gave no comfort and could not have fuelled the

The interim dividend was maintained at 4.7p, which indicates that the underlying picture is every bit as grim as But none of this satisfactorily explains yesterday's 3212p perhaps on the acquisition leap in the share price to front Hold on. ET IN HADES?

share price leap. Pre-tax prof- 2721/2p. or the strong recovery from the 134p price plumbed its were ugly. Profit margins in January. were cut in half and sales On occasion investors have seem to be going nowhere.

to resign themselves to the fact that they work from a position of imperfect knowledge. We do not know what the excitement is but the gut says something is going on.



Builder's merchants

AFTER Yuppies, Dinkies and Skis (pensioners who Spend the Kids' Inheritence) comes the Biddy. The Biddy is the homeowner who, when renovation and decoration is required, says to him/herself: Buy It, Don't Do It Yourself."

Biddy culture goes some way to explain why DIY sheds have struggled to attract custom. Self-employed joiners, decorators and plumbers - the Biddy outsourcers — do not buy from the retail sheds, but from builder's merchants.

Shares in the builder's merchants have stormed away this calendar year. Meyer International, one of Tempus's 1999 new year tips, has done very nicely, adding 26 per cent since January.

Wolseley is up by a similar bought CRH's builder's mer-

DOLLAR RATES

now. CRH's Keyline has been a headache for the Irish company for ages, but with the focus of being part of a pure merchant it should do better.

More widely, local competition between merchants is not as great as among DIY sheds, but the jobbing builder still buys in relatively modest bulk and wants to source locally. Biddies, therefore, hand merchants crucial pric-

ing power. There is more to be had at Travis, Wolseley, and Meyer. Bioglan

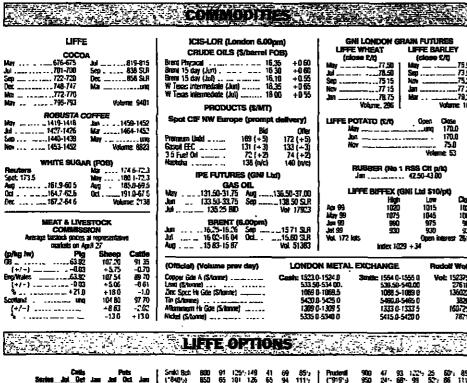
BIOGLAN PHARMA'S Terry Sadler is keen for the City to know that his company is not some spivvy biotech outfit but "a real company with real sales and real profits".

So it is, but it is also one that is currently valued at 130 times its fully diluted earncurrent-year forecasts. The fragmented dermatolo-

gy market provides Bioglan with plenty of opportunity to grow. Acne gels and eczema creams are too small to excite the interest of "big pharma", which is why Bioglan was able to pick up Zeneca's portfolio of products for £16 million last year. Bioglan, therefor, can continue its rapid growth by rolling out into connental Europe and the US.

None of this, however, is enough to justify the 95p rise in the shares since Bioglan's float last December. The market attached considerable value to Bioglan's drug delivery technologies that allow medicines to be taken via aerosols and wax sticks. The Biosphere technology for controlled release of proteins looks particularly interesting. But many of these projects re-

A decent company, but at 340%p the shares are pricey.

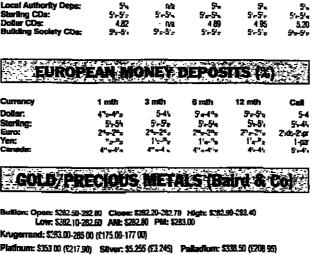


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THE COLUMN THE COUNT

The great partnership passes away

n 1998, Goldman Sachs went from strength to strength, earning more than a billion dollars in each of the first two quarters. Only 24 months after rejecting the notion of becoming a public company, the landscape — the firm's fortunes, the markets, and its competition - had changed entirely. In December 1997. Jon Corzine (senior partner) had publicly stated that the majority of partners wanted the firm to remain private and that the issue of a public offering would not, he believed, be on the agenda in 1998. But the ram-pant bull market, which saw the Dow rise from 7.400 to 9,200 during the spring and continued to increase the valuations given to investment banks, as well as rapid consolidation in the securities industry, contributed to the firm's decision to reconsider its private status in a project apily named Echo. From 1995 to 1997, Goldman

Sachs had watched Morgan Stanley merge with retailbased Dean Witter; Salomon Brothers combine forces with Smith Barney and Citibank; Union Bank of Switzerland join with Swiss Bank Corporation: and Bankers Trust purchase niche mergers and acquisition expert Alex Brown.

But perhaps the biggest threat to the firm's continuing existence as a private independent investment bank came not from these mergers but from Merrill Lynch's purchase of the massive Mercury Asset Management. Goldman Sachs may or may not have wanted to buy Mercury, but it probably did not have the option to do so. As a private company, with no stock, it would have been extremely difficult for the firm to spend the more than \$5 billion Merrill Lynch paid for the British fund manager. Early in 1998 Goldman Sachs had considered purchasing a stake in Garantia, the premier Brazilian investment bank, but the deal fell through. As other opportunities like this arose in asset management or bargains cropped up in the battered Asian economies, the firm was hamstrung without public shares to use as an acquisition currency. Some of the financial opportunities, as in the case of Merrill Lynch taking over bankrupt Yamaichi Securities or Salomon Brothers's investment in Nikko Securities at a time when the value of Japanese assets was depressed. would be shortlived, depending as they did on economic conditions that might soon change. The partners needed they were to capitalise on this window of opportunity.

"Structure follows strategy" was the watchword of the firm's newest committee, established in March as a sub-committee of the operating committee. Hank Paulson (vice-chairman) led a group of eight department heads in a review of the firm's strategy. The strategy committee was charged with surveying the terrain for the next five to ten years. imagining the world of 2008 and determining what kind of institution Goldman Sachs would be

when it got there. As they had done before the 1996 meeting, the partnership and operating committees held a joint meeting in New York in May to hear the strategy committee's report. This was a very different meeting than the one that had taken place two years earlier. And although most of the faces in the room were the same, the outcome would be en-

At this two-day meeting the strategy committee laid before the most senior partners a plan

for vigorous expansion. The re-port rejected the notion of Goldman Sachs joining the ranks of banking behemoths. The firm would not rush out and combine forces with Chase Manhattan or JP Morgan, as had often been speculated, Goldman Sachs did not need to be a supermarket of financial services the opportunities in its existing client and proprietary businesses were deemed more than

ample for the firm to grow. Goldman Sachs would contimue down the path it had been on, albeit at a much laster pace. The firm had ambitious plans for expansion. Over the next five years the firm planned to double the number of people working in its clientserving business, which, it believed, would more than double the amount of revenue it earned. Building the firm's asset management through organic growth or small purchases, which is what the firm had done to date, was rejected in favour of much more agressive

rope and Janan. Many of the important strategic arguments - the possibility of making a large acquisition, defraying partners' risk, and facilitating rapid expansion — strongly suggested a sale. The lone hurdle was the cultural issue. One current partner feels that the issue boiled down to: "How do you walk in here the next day and look a guy in the face who has worked here for eight to ten years and tell him you've just taken away his opportunity to

be a partner of the firm?" Tension built as the fateful meeting approached. Corzine told all employees early in June that they needed to hang on a little longer until there was resolution and that the management was glad to be facing this decision in a period of strength without the back-drop of financial anxieties. He also announced that Paulson would be named co-chairman and co-CEO of the firm, a position equal to Corzine's. It was a return to the past, to a management formula that had worked so well for the firm before.

oing into the June

12 meeting many felt the decision could go either way. Everyone knew that in 1996, Corzine, Paulson, (Roy) Zucker-berg, and (Robert) Hurst had supported a sale, and many believed that they would again, vet there were widespread reports of opposition by the youngest members, (John) in the two previous partner-ship-wide meetings on this subject, no one doubted that management would not proceed with a sale if it lacked the overwhelming support of the firm's owners. And because of the division within the executive committee, the threshold for support among the partners would need to be high - a simple majority would not suffice. There was one crucial differ-

ence from the two earlier meetings. In 1986 the newest class of partners had only been on the iob for six days and had almost no equity. In 1996, the equity of new 1994 partners was also relatively small, since 1995 was not a particularly strong year. But when the 1996 partners were asked to consider a public sale in 1998 they had already booked one record year and a second looked more than likely; therefore they would have much larger capital stakes to sell. Although it is always the most junior partners who are disadvantaged by a sale, in 1998, in part because of the inflated valua-



ON TUESDAY, Goldman Sachs will float on the New York Stock Exchange, so ending 130 years of partnership and turning hundreds of senior executives, including Hank Paulson, left, and Jon Corzine into multimillionaires. Twice before, in 1986 and 1996, Goldman came close to ending its partnership structure, but pulled back from the brink. In the first of two exclusive extracts from Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success by Lisa Endlich, the story of how Goldman finally decided to become a public company can be told.

tions the stock market had placed upon investment banks well into the summer months, for this group the economics would be compelling. Goldman Sachs's 190 part-

ners retreated on Friday, June 12. to the IBM Palisades executive conference centre north of New York City, where they brick and timber complex on top of a hill. Security was high. with extra plain clothes security guards on duty, and the entrances to the compound were closed. The location of the meeting had been kept secret, and many members of the press congregated at the Arrowwood conference centre, assuming the meeting would be there. Even with the extra security one journalist climbed over the fence and another tried to infiltrate the meeting using a fake 1D card. As rain poured down outside, the partners faced what Paulson called a decision of "grave importance . . . one of the most important things the

firm will ever do." As had been the case in 1986 and 1996, the format of the two-day meeting included a presentation by the committee studying the firm's options, a 50-page folio of financial seenarios, and an open and spirited debate by the entire partnership. No one expected there to be a vote at this gathering; there was no formal proposal

and nothing to vote on. The partnership would signal its interest to the executive committee, and later, if it was deemed to be the will of the group, a specific proposal would be drawn up on which the partners would then vote.

Paulson spoke at the first session on Friday morning, and his words set the tone for the next two days. Paulson's goal was to make all partners in the room re-examine their position and rethink any assumptions they might have held before

> TOMORROW man's role in the rise and tall of Robert Maxwell -

the meeting. Partners remember that he made both cases. for going public and for staying private, in an exaggerated manner, causing everyone to consider the repercussions of their viewpoints.

In the evening, the partners met for a barbecue and what was billed as an entirely social evening. The atmosphere was a little like that in a college dormitory, as many partners watched the NBA playoffs on TV, while others milled in and out of game rooms and congregated in small groups in hallways and on stairs to discuss the burning issue of the moment. On Saturday morning Corzine

ject close to his heart — fair-ness. But first he felt a responsibility to read a letter he had received from John Weinberg and John Whitehead (former chiefs of Goldman Sachs) the previous afternoon. The two Johns were opposed to the partners' selling the firm. They bebroke don't fix it". Both were committed to the notion that the partnership was one of the things that had made the firm finished there was a round of great and that it would be a mistake to tamper with it. Corzine had spoken to Weinberg, who had assured his successor that he would support wholeheart-

addressed the group on a sub-

edly whatever decision the partners made. Those who heard Corzine speak remember that he annotated these remarks by reminding those assembled that Weinberg as well as other former Goldman chairmen. Robert E Rubin, and Stephen Friedman had each, along with their management committees. at some point recommended that the firm go public. Cor-zine, who had been a member of each of those management committees, had supported the proposal each time and, without strongly advocating it now. supported it again.

By mid-morning on Satur-day the leadership was done talking, and it was time to hear from the partnership. What followed was an impassioned debate, but nothing like the emotional response that had poured out in 1986. As had been the case in 1986 and 1996 the floor was opened for discussion and more than 100 partners stated their point of view. A discussion began in which the arguments, many of them eloquently framed, emerged in Each speaker emphasised his or her support for the outcome, whatever it might be, and after each speaker was

applause from the floor. Goldman Sachs would never let a client have the capital structure the firm itself had, some partners argued. A global business hoping to expand to more than 20,000 employees cannot rest on a capital base that has no permanence. In a risky cyclical business it makes no sense to expose the resources of a handful of people to the whims of the world's capital markets.

Those for and against felt that they had the issue of strategy on their side. The firm would not be able to make a large acquisition without stock, and without this ability it might be relegated to being a niche player, unable to compete for all of the top business. The discussion, which was

expected to end before lunch, went on until 2pm, with people going out to get food and returning to eat at their desks. After the long open session

each partner was asked to fill out an anonymous written questionnaire for submission ing which ownership format they preferred and why.

On Saturday afternoon at about 2:30 the meeting adjourned and the partners left the conference centre, some driving back to the city, some to the airport. They did not know what would happen next; the fate of the firm had been left in the hands of six men of differing opinions. There had been the overwhelming sense that a majority of those present supported the idea of selling the firm, but Corzine and Paulson had made it clear that a supermajority would be needed. The executive committee cloistered itself for the next 30 hours to review, reflect, and decide. They emerged from this meeting united, and announced to the world their belief that Goldman Sachs should sell a portion of the firm to the investing public. A detailed proposal would be drawn up for the partnership to vote on during the summer, and anticipating that there would be more than sufficient support from the partnership and hospitable markets, the firm would have an initial public offering in the autumn of 1998.

Some were cynical about the firm's decision to go public. The same question asked two years earlier had yielded a resounding no. Partners talked endlessly about the value of partnership, but at the height of the greatest bull market in history they were willing to relinquish control of their firm. Others saw it differently, viewing the firm's continuing status as a private partnership as the result of inertia and nostalgia. A partnership, they believed, is an obsolete structure with which to operate a vastly expanding, glo-bal, risk-taking enterprise. The money, which they intended to spread to every employee of the firm, would only strengthen the organisation. Those who supported the change pointed out that far from being greedy. Goldman Sachs's leaders Goldman pushed for this move in 1996. when the firm would have sold

for not substantially more than its book value. Some limited partners won dered about the wisdom of a

public sale. Among those re-tired from the firm are partners who, when faced with the opportunity to sell as general partners, declined on the grounds that the partnership made the firm great. One limited partner went so far as to say: "A lot of us think there's a big danger here that you could kill a goose that, over the years, had laid an awful lot of golden eggs. Why in God's name would you want to tamper with something that has worked so well?" On the other side, many limited partners had voted to sell the firm in 1986, or supported the idea in 1996, but from the standpoint of personal gain their timing had not been perfect. Pub lidy. Friedman characterised the move as a way to husband scarce partnership capital. We're in the longest stock market boom and the biggest one in history," he said with some prescience. "What you do is you store up your seed corn in the event of a bad period. One hears the rumour there used to be a time when stock markets

n the day following ment, its co-CEOs were on the defensive. A barrage of press speculation on how rich they and their partners would become had, they felt, missed the point of the sale. "Contrary to what you might read, we are not doing this because of the money. This is not about cashing out. Corzine asserted vehemently. "We intend to be the pre-eminent, independent global investment bank. We are going to be tough, and we will have the capital to compete." Paulson emphasised that the firm would not merge with a big bank or retail operation. The firm would use the capital provided by a public offering to do more of what it already did

well, as a vehicle for growth. Some of the post mortems mourned the passing of the last great Wall Street partnership, decrying the end of an era. Yet the importance of this transition, while historically interesting, is minimal to the in-dustry. Did it matter that the industry leader was a private partnership able to conduct its business without focusing on the short term and the smooth flow of recurring earnings that stock markets applaud? Probably not. Goldman Sachs had ly but surely been read ing itself to become a public company. Now that the time for change had arrived, the transformation could smoother and simpler than at any time in the firm's history. ☐ Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success is published by Little Brown, price £20

Trust fund

merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust was taking ages. But it seems the deal is advancing too fast for Bankers Trust, which has to make extra payouts to staff who will not be retained in order to comply with EU law.

The requirement is that everyone involved must be interviewed to assess if there is a post for them in the merged firm. Unfortunately, there is



They've found a

I HAD the impression that the merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust was not enough time to see individually all 2,500 Bankers Trust staff in the City and the other 1,000-odd in Edinburgh, and anyway, it is already pretty clear who is not wanted on the voyage, so to speak.

Some dealers are on contracts that can be terminated at a month's notice, on either side - but only if they are "interviewed" first. The bank has checked with Brussels, and the way around this is to pay them a minimum of three months' money, whether or not they have jobs to go to elsewhere.

TRULY bizarre scenes at the Institute of Directors' annual convention. The organisers, in an effort to enliven proceedings, had crafted an interlude in which children acted out little scenes giving their views on

the way business operates. Enter Mr Sock. The im-promptu star of the Albert Hall was perched on the shoulder of one of the young narrators to give prompts and a sort of mime version of what was going on. Mr Sock, however.



was iust that, a hand in a

Prize bore

sock, and was understandably limited to waves and other such simple gestures. None of which made a lot of sense or were much appreciated by an increasingly embarrassed au-dience. One senses that like Peter Mandelson, speaker at last years convention, Mr Sock will not be asked back.

THOSE surveys of which brokers and merchant banks are most popular with the fund managers are becoming about as exciting and unpredictable

as the old Comintern elections. An audible groan went through the City audience at the Reuters/Tempest Consultants award ceremony yesterday, the third time that Merrill Lynch pipped Warburg Dillon Read to the top. Even worse is the polarisa-

tion of analysts. Of the 1,300

identified by the survey, half re-ceived no votes at all from any fund manager. (Cue another groan, more heartfelt this time). The top 10 per cent now account for more than two-fifths of all votes cast, and most of them work for the top three brokers, the two above plus BT Alex Brown. And those top three get two-fifths of all the commission earned by the City.

No show

THE first award at the Tempest/Reuters ceremony, for the fund manager most popular with finance directors, went to Donald Tosh at Legal & General. When he was called to pick up his award, there was an em-

barrassing silence.
"Donald Tosh? Is Donald Tosh here? Nope. Tosh and the rest of the UK equities team at L&G chose yesterday for a morale-building "away day", at which they lock themselves away and think deep strategic thoughts. Or some thing like that.

SOME excuses you simply cannot make up. The West Anglia Great Northern rail line, from King's Cross to Peterborough. has an excellent performance record. However, under "events outside our control" the operator this month admitted to: "Nude trespassers on the line."

Mutual aid

THE Yorkshire Building Society has dug the Bradford & Bingley out of a hole by agreeing to sponsor the Building Societies Association annual conference next month. The B&B had promised the money, but this week's surprise vote for conversion means that I doubt anyone from there will dare to show their face in Harrogate.

But the money was still due until the Yorkshire decided to step in. Derek Roberts, chair-man, says the only problem is filling the extra table of ten at the BSA dinner. Don't be discouraged. Harrogate in May sounds fine to me.

MARTIN WALLER

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Young warns of US trade war



A NEW trade crisis is looming between the UK and the US following the banana wars, Lord Young of Graffham, President of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday.

Lord Young told the 2,500 delegates at the IoD's annual convention that tempers would flare again between the two countries over Europe's decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment and increasing worries over GM foods. He said: "We might see this as a health risk but Washington will see this as a pure protection. We are turning Europe into a Fortress Europe for Food."

His comments follow the World Trade Organisation's backing for US penalties imposed on some European goods, such as batteries, candles and toiletries in retaliation for Europe's imports of Caribbean bananas.

Lord Young gave warning that trade was being ignored as world leaders tackled the crisis in the Balkans. "It would be ironic if there were to be an even bigger falling out of the partners of Nato that pro-

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Lord Young of Graffham said tempers would flare over the decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment

duced the next crisis, the one that would overshadow even the tragedy of Kosovo."

Philip Lader, the US Ambassador to the UK, admitted that there were differences between

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Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

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the two countries. Mr Lader, who was also at the IoD, said: "Given the magnitude of trade relations between the UK and the US it is not surprising that

occasionally there will be dif-

ferences of opinion. But I hope that we can put disputes in the context of otherwise succesful

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US/EU trade relations." Mr Lader was last month summoned to see Stephen By-

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ers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, over the banana issue. Mr Byers told him that the US's behaviour was completely unacceptable. Yesterday Mr Lader said that

after earnest negotiations, the disputes between the two countries could eventually be seen as "irritations". He said he was trying to "lower the deci-bel level" over the trade rows.

Get an Internet grip, says Gates

BILL GATES, chairman of Microsoft, yesterday said that chief executives must get to grips with the Internet and digital technology rather than delegate such skills amid concern that the UK is lagging the US in the use of technology.

Mr Gates told the Institute of Directors that the UK area.

of Directors that the US was ahead of other nations in electronic commerce and in adapting to technology because many start-up businesses had embraced it at an early stage. making it integral to their activities. He said that the greater risk-taking attitude among US businesses also helped company leaders to take up the full potential of technology.

However, he said that British business, although behind

US business, was ahead of most countries in exploiting

TECHNOLOGY

technology.
The Microsoft founder said it was "imperative" that businesses put technology top of their priorities because it was fast changing the way busi-ness operates. He said: "There is a real need for this to be not just something that junior people talk about. The management needs to get involved."

Mr Gates said that companies needed to obtain advice on how technology could best be used in their sectors. Retailers' needs would be very differ-

Grade criticises negative attitudes

ecutive of First Leisure, yesterday attacked negative attiudes to the leisure industr "at all levels from national Government downwards".

Praising the industry for employing 2.5 million people and accounting for 10 per cent of GDP, Mr Grade said: "So do we make a song and dance about our nightelubs, or bowi the rest of the world over with our skills at creating state-ofthe art tenpin centres? Don't be silly — this is Britain!"

Mr Grade went on to criticise "archaic planning regulations". He complained: "The fate of the leisure industry is

LEISURE INDUSTRY

in the hands of legislators and regulators who don't know it exists, don't know its potential and therefore cannot understand its problems."

He launched a general attack on Britain's lack of appetite for innovation and new ideas in business. He said it was a "deep malaise which has for too long infected the British pysche".

> REPORTS by Christine Buckley

Boards are abdicating to false Messiahs

or most businesses, a board of directors is an unimaginable luxury. If owner-managers aspire to more than the legal minimum, it is usually to get expensive professional advice for the price of an occasional lunch. As the best or most ambitious expand, all sorts of new issues of accountability to an ever-widening circle of shareholders and outsiders build up. A collectively responsible board becomes ever more vital.

Aside from stock market flotation, there are few clear staging posts on the way to the institutional status of the Prudential, ICI or Glaxo Wellcome. That is why the role of the board, who should be on it. relations of managers and non-executives, or the chairman and the chief executive are subject to endless dispute and covered in acres of flannel that still cannot hide the gulf between theory and reality.

On his retirement from the chair. Sir Ronald Hampel revived a 30-year ICI tradition of railing against ignorant critics. Fund managers now make boards "tick boxes" to show

they are complying with silly rules laid down by committees headed in turn by Sir Adrian Cadbury, Sir Richard Greenbury and, yes, Sir Ronald himself. Maybe the rules were bad. Perhaps they obscure

other cultures that

can be equally effective, though all must stand scrutiny. The issue that dominated the original Cadbury com-

mittee was how to stop one person from having complete control of a top company and running it into the ground. Names such as British & Commonwealth, Polly Peck and Maxwell Communications head a long list. One obvious solution was

to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive. Yet many top groups, including the oil majors. Anglo-Dutch Unilever and the old ICI itself, had a strong management cadre from which one chairman for a limited term. At the other extreme, some of our dozier financial institutions had, until recently, a non-executive board filled with top strategy-setting City types ruling a chief general manager who had emerged the hard way by decades of effort. Changes of culture and the transition from an entrepreneur are perilous. In too companies, it is agreed. the board should set strategy, and management implement it. But a bizarre Angloto try to recreate venturing beginnings by turning chief executives into Messianic boss figures. To make things worse,

Saxon fashion has developed

non-executive directors then evolve from supportive advisers into Pharisaic judges eager to find any hint that a Messiah might be false. This may be what put off heart-murmuring Dick O'Neill, who was due to take over from Martin Taylor as chief executive of Barclays.

Mr Taylor had been more strategist than manager. Combining both roles is usually too much, as the codes acknowledge. Yesterday Keith Henry was fired as chief executive of National Power, seemingly because its strategy was in a mess. Had the board been properly run, its chairman, Sir John Collins, should have been the first to go. He should resign pronto or return his pay.

The entrepreneur manager in the mould of Lord Weinstock is a rarity in the UK. Even he needed supportive chairmen and a close management group. He also left succession prob-

lems. So did Mike Blackburn. larger than life architect of the now ailing Halifax. Here the board has risked a conplete change of culture. A new chief executive from insurance is teamed with a chairman who was not on the board, though he

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

> has clubland connections. Sir Dennis Stevenson. who will absurdly chair two FTSE 100 companies, is the latest incarnation of that pathetic English invention, the star non-executive, trusted in the City to be put in charge of any company needing a financial makeover. The paucity of capable strategists is attested by the continuing prominence of ageing Young Turks of the 1960s Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and will be made worse by the demise of the London

merchant bank. They seem to achieve transitions more easily in collegiate Japan and more elegantly at shareholder-led BMW. If a figure like BP's Sir John Browne turns up. all the better. Big companies should be capable of being run by competent managers and chairmen with no pretensions to Messianic status.

Richard Handover, the unassuming second choice as chief executive at WH Smith, is a better model than Rand V Araskog, who ruled ITT as chairman, president and chief executive officer to prove he was in charge.

Harnessing the airwaves

t is usually only large media companies or maverick music enthusiasts who undertake the complex and expensive process of setting up a radio station. Technology is making it increasingly affordable and straightforward, however, for all kinds of businesses to set up temporary radio stations as part

of their marketing strategies. Companies that have used so-called "limited licence radio" include TGI Friday, the restaurant chain, Lakeside, the Essex shopping centre, and The Rughy Evening Telegraph. Limited licence radio has also been used to promote events such as the Machine Tools and Technology Association's annual conference

at Birmingham's NEC. The process of bidding for a temporary licence - which gives the holder the right to broadcast for up to 28 days then getting hold of the equipment needed to set up a station. is becoming simpler thanks to a

handful of tiny high-tech media companies that specialise in organising broadcasts. One such is Show FM.

Show FM approaches the Radio Authority (RA) on behalf of its clients, and attempts to justify why they should be given licences. Although the

cost of applying for a licence is tiny (a £200 application fee. plus about £80 a day), bidders must convince the RA that their proposals "broaden choice".

Of course, companies have to step up their marketing activities to boost awareness of their temporary radio stations, although Show FM argues that simply putting a huge mobile ra-

dio studio in a crowded town centre often does the job. But how effective are tempo-

much do they cost? Research carried out by Mirror Group, the national and regional newspaper company, suggests that limited licence stations can achieve market share of up to 31 per cent, within a ten to 12-mile

rary radio stations, and how

broadcast radius. The total cost to the client, meanwhile, is typically tween £800 and £1.500 per day. according Show FM.

Given this relatively modest cost (it can cost up to £70,000 for

one full-page advert in a national newspaper) - and the fact that much more airspace is about to be made available by the RA when digital radio arrives - means limited licence radio stations look likely to become an increasingly important

part of many companies' marketing strategies.

☐ WORKERS will soon be able to reproduce their office desktops on their laptop or home PCs, thanks to software from Sun Microsystems. The software, called i-Planet, creates a "virtual workspace" by allowing workers to access their office software applications, calendars, personal files and e-mail. via the Internet.

☐ LUCENT Technologies, the telecoms equipment manufacturer, has invented a device that can speed-up the process of downloading files from the Internet, and ease internet congestion. IPWorX "detects and anticipates" Internet traffic volume, and is able to replicate Web pages without the viewer noticing anything but the lack of waiting time, Lucent says.

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E TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999 How far will tax tide rise?

Keith Daniels on the subtle forces that are exerting pressure for fiscal harmonisation throughout the EU

recently addressed an au-dience of UK executives on the issues surrounding attempts to promote harmonisation of corporate taxation throughout Europe. To my surprise, although the inpic was well understood, there was little appreciation of the degree to which UK tax law has already been influenced by the European dimension.

However, all those present sensed a hidden agenda to raise the burden of corporate taxes as high as practicable, and the focus moved to the rates of corporate tax charged throughout Europe. Rates, though, are not the key driver in this debate. The tax base to which they are applied is far more signif-

As Gordon Brown has shown on more than one occasion, the Government can raise additional tax revenue by careful manipulation of the tax base while cutting headline rates to attract favourable media coverage.

The top-down approach to European tax harmonisation, as tried in Germany, has seemed to run into the buffers and other issues have emerged to attract the media's attention. But is that the end of the matter? In my

Running just to

ASK most senior people in

the Big Five accountancy

firms what worries them

most and they tend to re-spond: "Recruiting more

good people to keep growth

Certainly, the message seems to have hit home at

KPMG. It has a poster cam-paign running that shows an athlete bursting through the

winning tape in a heady mix of

achievement and triumph. The message reads: "Know

how it feels" and gives you the

running at high levels."

stand still

We have ceded part of our

sovereignty to Europe al-ready. Principles of European law can be used to challenge domestic legislation. and UK courts are becoming more confident in giving rulings based on these princi-ples. Harmonisation of the tax system by judicial inter-pretation will take a very long time, but the process will grind on and common interpretations will result.

The much-criticised proposed directive on a common system of applying withhold-ing tax to interest has caused a stir, particularly in London's eurobond market. The essence of the directive is to counter evasion of personal tax due on undisclosed deposits held outside a tax authority's jurisdiction.

However, as originally drafted, the directive would potentially cause the eurobond market to seek a new home outside the EU, and thousands of jobs would be

The national veto could be used to defeat the European Commission's proposals, but clearly it would be preferable if an accommodation could be reached that did not require use of such a blunt instrument. This attempt at harmonisation can be seen as an unwelcome visitor coming through the political front door. Yet there are oth-

telephone number of KPMG

Commuters walking across

London Bridge into the City

have been puzzled that one of

these massive posters has been stuck on the roof of a barge moored beside the bank

This may seems to be an

odd place to have a poster. Not so. It is placed directly oppo-

site the glass walls that consti-

tute London Bridge City. home of the consulting busi-ness of rival firm Pricewater-

of the Thames below.

houseCoopers.

Consulting.



Keith Daniels says court rulings may foster harmonisation

er more subtle harmonisation steps occurring at the po-litical back door.

A fundamental principle of international law is that one nation will not normally enforce collection of another's tax. Last year, the Commission recommended a directive amendment that. if adopted, might require the Inland Revenue prospective-ly to enforce collection of,

HISTORY was made at the

Scots ICA annual meeting. For

the first time, an accountancy

body has voted to allow non-

council. People were casting

accountants, lay people, on its

around as to who might quali-

fy for the two places that will

be set aside for less numerate

Representatives of consum-ers' bodies and the like were

suggested. But the institute re-

ally doesn't have to look that far. Sean Connery is tub-

but interested people.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bonding

say, Italian tax from a UK company operating in Italy
- a big change in policy,
with overtones in terms of harmonisation.

The most significant difficulty for advocates of harmonisation is measuring the tax base. Quite apart from differ-ing fiscal codes, there is not, as yet, a uniform measure of accounting profits through-out the EU. International ac-

thumping his way around the

hills and glens at the moment

with a view to doing worrying

things with a claymore to op-

posing politicians. The actor would certainly shake up a

ACCOUNTANTS are famous-

ly those people who never own

up to their real occupation at

parties. But it may all be

changing. There is another business which, by all ac-

counts, reckons that its image

Image problem

council meeting.

sal recognition is secured.

The information age will also have its effect. With

modern electronic communications, does each company in a group require its own support services? Shared service centres are becoming a reality, with one company in a worldwide group providing, say, the accounts func-tion to all group members. Differences between jurisdictions are thereby highlighted, which may influence investment decisions.

ing in credibility, but it may

be many years before univer-

ax competition, too, will play a part. Glo-bally-mobile investment will be drawn to jurisdictions with attractive fiscal regimes. Losers will com-plain of unfair competition, but eventually will play the same game or face damaging economic consequences. A common currency may

be a precursor to further po-litical, social and economic integration in Europe. The Big Bang approach to tax harmonisation is unlikely ever to succeed, but there are other agents. Court rulings, international accounting har-monisation and integration of big multinationals will all influence the pace and direction of change.

Just as an incoming tide, harmonisation will eventually reach a high water mark.

Keith Daniels is President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and a KPMG partner

has plummeted as low as it

can go. And that is informa-

According to a report in Mi-

croScope magazine, the chief executive of Cap Gemini in the UK has taken to the con-

ference platform to thunder

that "this industry is not just made up of techies and nerds

but intelligent and educated

And Alan Stevens, chief exec-

utive of EDS in the UK, took

the doom-laden talk to its logi-

cal conclusion. "We have lost

the battle with accountancy,"

he said. 'That has a much bet-

ROBERT BRUCE

ter image than we do."

tion technology.

people".

BRUCE objectives with a view to safeguarding the company's as-sets and enhancing over time the value of within companies. As the senior partner of

derstand the business? What Turnbull is getting at is that many

directors take a similar view to Sir Ronald Hampel of ICI when he ran the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance. Underlying it is the idea that companies should be prosperous and all this corporate governance stuff just gets in the way. Turnbull knows that directors ought to understand the internal controls, but they tend to just assume that these things happen.

Judgment call on internal controls

There is but one problem with the Turnbull report. The appliance of judgment is considered old hat. This placency will no longer be possible. The system will have to be embedded in the company. Boards of directors will have stringent is unfortunate because the report depends, quite rightly, on the directors of listed companies reaching conclusions based on judg-ment and then communicating them to

shareholders.

The whole area of internal controls has been fraught for the same reasons. While other areas of corporate governance have been sorted out so that a combined code now exists and is in force, the business of internal controls has had a convoluted

It has gone through many permutations since it was advocated by the original Cadbury code. But now it has come home in a good and challenging form. Once it was suggested that only financial internal controls should be subject to corporate governace guidance. Now it has been widened to include eve-

rything in the burgeoning in-ternal controls basket. So directors will now have to have a review system em-bedded within the company enabling them to reach a view on everything from risk management and fraud to health and safety and environ-

mental factors. The report, named after its chairman, Nigel Turnbull, the Rank Group's finance director, states that "a company's system has as its principal aim the management of risks that are significant to the fulfilment of its business

shareholders' investment". In short, this stuff deals with the heart of a company. If this goes wrong then the company goes down. "Internal control," Turnbull will tell you, "takes governance right into the heart

This may not go down well with company directors. Nor will Turnbull's view that the result of the processes that his report unleashes "forces the board of directors to understand the business".

To an outsider this may seem odd. What are directors doing there if they do not un-

With the new guidance in place, this com-

responsibilities to assess the effectiveness of those systems and ensure that all weaknesses are being remedied.

They will have to monitor changes in the system and then disclose their findings in the annual report. There they will have to report that they have reviewed the system's effectiveness and disclose any material fail-

ings and what they have done, or intend doing, about them.
The intention is to avoid "boilerplate" corporate governance statements where a verbal formula clouds any understanding. Roger Davis, the head of professional affairs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, was the deputy chairman of the Turnbull committee. He is an enthusiast for companies ex-

plaining clearly. "If you pick up ICI's report you find it is all boilerplate," he said. "The shareholders cannot make anything of it."

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The report is a break-through. But the enthusi-asm for judgment being exercised and its results be-ing reported goes against the grain of the corporate

Company directors, and their auditors, both internal and external, have come to hate the idea of judgment these days. Partly, it is the problem of liti-gation. If you exercise judgment and things go wrong, then the lawyers will be set upon you.

one of the largest firms put it to me last week society in general is now much more intolerant of failure. People come under greater fire for failure. So they prefer to follow rules they can then either cite or blame, depending on the results of their actions. And that makes them safer should litiga-

Once upon a time, accountants used their judgment first and then, only secondly, checked to see if the chosen solution was in line with the existing rules. Now the process tends to be the other way round.

This makes the place of the Turnbull report a difficult one. The hope is that companies will see greater benefit in explaining things to stakeholders and increasing the worth and stability of their business by

If everyone instead pulls down the shutters and goes off to consult the lawyers then businesses are hardly likely to retain their dynamism. It is time for arguments on the issue of how judgment gives you a competitive edge.

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 29 1999

Court of Appeal

Adverse possession claim fails

. . . STRIET

Justice Buxton and Sir Christopher Staughton [Judgment March 31]

A beneficiary of an unadministered estate who was in possession of land comprised in that estate for a period exceeding 12 years could not maintain against the other beneficiaries a claim to adverse possession of the land for the purposes of section 15(1) of the Limitation Act 1980. Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to that Act applied to prevent a right of action from being treated as accruing during that time.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mrs Josephine Hartley, from the judgment on a preliminary is-sue in favour of the plaintiffs, Mrs inson and Mrs Lucy Fielden, by Judge Barry sitting in Halifax County Court on January II, 1999, that had the effect of defeating the defendant's claim to title by adverse possession to Height Top Farm, Cornholme, Todmorden,

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1990 Act provides: "Where any setfor sale is in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale (not being a person solely or absolutely entitled to the land or the proceeds), no right of action to recover the land shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as accruing during that possession to any person ... entitled to a benefi-cial interest in the land or the pro-

Regina v Snaresbrook

Crown Court, Ex parte Input

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and

On an appeal from a magistrates

court, the crown court was obliged

to provide proper reasons for its de-

immediately after it, so that a de-lendant could know the reasons as

soon as reasonably possible, see the nature of the criminality found

sion at the time of the decision or

Mr Paul Creaner for Mrs Hart-

Management Ltd

(Judgment March 4)

that the property had been acquired in 1948 by William Hyde Harrley who was married to Mary Harriey. They had a son and three daughters. Mr Hardey died intestate in 1965, his widow becoming the sole legal and beneficial owner of the farm. Thereafter the son, not then married, lived with his mother at the farm until her death in

1983. She also died intestate. No grant of letters of administration to her estate was obtained at that stage. Thus, by virtue of sec-tion 9 of the Administration of Estares Act 1925 her real and personal estate including the larm, vester in the President of the Family Divi-

sion until administration. After Mary Hartley's death the son continued to live at the farm on his own. For present purposes it was to be assumed that he was in possession of it. In October 1995 the son married the defendant and made a will appointing her sole executrix and devising his estate to her absolutely. The son died in No-

Thereafter the three daughters. the plaintiffs, sought the sale of the farm, maintaining that they were each entitled to a quarter of the net proceeds. The defendant maintained that the son and she successively had been in adverse posses sion of the farm since Mary Hartley's death in 1983, a period of more than 12 years, and that she, by succession and in her own right, had acquired a possesssory

In 1998 the daughters obtained a grant of letters of administration to their mother's estate and com-

menced the action seeking, inter

adverse possession as a prelimi-nary issue, upheld the plaintiffs' case that the defendant's claim to adverse possession was on any foot-ing defeated by paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act.

Mr Coulter argued that at all material times the farm was "in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale", namely the son, and the plaintiffs were other persons "entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale".

Mr Creaner's contrary argument was based on a literal interpretation of paragraph 9. He pointed out, correctly, that it was ex-pressed to apply to settled land, which was not this case, or to land held on trust for sale.

He said that while the farm was by Division it was not held on trust for sale so that for sale so that paragraph 9 could not, and did not apply during that

Further, it was argued, even if it could be said that the farm was held on trust for sale, neither the son nor any of the daughters had a of sale, but only a right to require the mother's estate to be duly administered and to receive a quarter share of the net estate on comple tion of the administration: see Commissioner of Stamp Duties (Queensland) v Livingston [1965] AC 694) and in re Leigh's Will Trusts (1970) Ch 277).

Bearing in mind its purpose and antecedents, Mr Creaner's interpretation of paragraph 9 was unac-

Appeal court must give reasons

sions could be said to have been the reintroduction of the doctrine of non-adverse possession among beneficial co-owners of land, allow ance being made for the trust for sale which the Law of Property Act 1925 had made an inevitable feaoure of such ownership. Against that background it would be wrong to give paragraph 9 the literal interpretation which Mr Crean-

Although it was no doubt correct to say that the President of the Family Division, while the farm was ed in him, was not a trustee of it and that it was not held on trust for sale during that period, it was presumptively so held and it would be artificial for limitation purposes to distinguish between the state of affairs existing before and after the grant of administration.

It would be equally artificial for limitation purposes to hold that after the grant had caused the trust for sale, under section 33 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 to take effect, the son and the daughters did not have beneficial inter-

ests in the proceeds of sale. As Mr Justice Buckley had said in In re Leigh's Will Trusts (at p282) a person absolutely entitled to a share of an unadministered estate did have an interest of a kind in the assets comprised in it. Such an interest was a sufficient interest for the purposes of paragraph 9.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a con-curring judgment and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed. Solicitors: Waddington & Son.

Burnley: Ursula Bagnall & Co,

lowitt and Mr Justice Astill [Judgment March 26] Where a commany and its directors were convicted of offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the court should ensure that the financial penalties in-

posed were appropriate to mark the gravity of the case. Although in a small company the directors might also be the shareholders so that any double punishment should be avoided, the penalties fixed should make clear

that directors had a personal re-sponsibility which could not be huffled off to the company. In considering the period over which a financial penalty might be ordered to be payable, the court could properly fix a longer period in the case of a corporate defendant

fendant The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, sitting at Birmingham, so held when

(i) hearing an appeal against sen-tence by Rolleo Screw and Rivet Co Ltd following its pleas of guilty to offences under section 2(1) and 3(1) of the 1974 Act in respect of a serious incident of asbestos contamination in 1997 and

(ii) hearing applications for leave to appeal against sentence by the company's directors, Bernard Rose and Philip Rose, who had pleaded guilty to the same offenc-

The company was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £30,000 costs. Judge Harris, QC, directed that £5,000 of the total be paid within the first 12 months, and the bal-ance at the rate of £1,000 a month. The total period for payment, in the absence of accelerated payment, was six years and five

Mr Bernard Rose was fined £6,000, to be paid at £1,000 a month and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs: Mr Philip Rose was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay

E2.000 costs.

The Court of Appeal refused their applications but reduced the sum payable by way of costs to £20,000 by the company. Mr Kevin Hegarty for the com-

pany and the directors; Mr Mark Eades for the prosecution. THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE. giving the judgment of the court, re-ferred to and gave unqualified sup-

port to the observations of Mr Justice Scott Baker in R v F Hone & Sons (Engineers) Ltd. (The Times November 27, 1998; [1999] 2 All ER 249, 253 to 255) which amounted to a clear and correct statement of the principles which should guide the court in the present kind of case. His Lordship turned to the ques-

tion, raised squarely by the present appeal, of the period over which a fine might properly be ordered to be payable.

Earnshaw and Others v Hart
Ley

Ley

Mr Barry Coulter for the plain
iffs.

Lord Justice Nourse, Lord

Justice Buxton and Sir Christopher

Justice Buxton and Sir Christoph there was no distinction to be drawn for that purpose betw personal and a corporate defend-

> His Lordship said that it was plain from R v Olliver (1989) II Cr App R (S) 10, 15) per Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, that the court there was at pains to avoid stipulating any period which should not be exceeded in a proper case.

Nonetheless with a personal defendant, with a fine hanging over him, there were arguments for keeping the period of that continuing punishment within bounds. Those arguments were much weak-er, if indeed they applied at all. then one was considering a corpo rate defendant

There was not the same sense of anxiety as was liable to afflict an individual, and it was acceptable on proper facts and in appropriate cirinstances for a fine to be payable by a company over a substantially longer period than might be appropriate in the case of an individual His Lordship would, however accept Mr Hegarty's further sub-

mission, that the court should avoid a risk of overlap. In a small company the directors were likely in be the shareholders and there fore the main losers if a severe sanction was imposed on the company. The court had to be alert to ensure double punishment On the other hand, it was impor-

tant in many cases that fines should be imposed which made it al responsibility on directors and that they could not simply shuffle off their responsibilities to the corporation of which they were direc-

The proper approach to a case of the present kind in principle was to pose two questions: I What financial penalty did the offence merit? 2 What financial penalty could a de-

sonal, reasonably be ordered to That second question inevitably raised the question of time.

Turning to the instant case the court concluded on the first question that the total penalty imposed on the company and the directors of ESO,000, split as to £40,000 payable by the company and £10,000 by the directors, was, in the circum-

stances, appropriate recognition of the gravity of the offending. On the second question, the com pany had submitted that its means were such that together with the costs order the total sum of £70,000 payable was grossly excessive and not an amount it could meet.

The court had been supplied with a quantity of accounting material, not all before the judge, which caused it to reconsider the time for

payment.
As already indicated, a longer period for payment was acceptable in the case of a company than

Penalties on guilty companies

Robert

er sum over a longer period than a smaller sum over a shorter period. since the former course might well give a company a greater opportunity to control its cash flow and sur-

vive difficult trading conditions. If, despite a long period, the company had the means or chose to

pay sooner than it needed, that was

ducing the fine, but by reducing to some extent the sum of costs to be paid, from £30,000 to £20,000, thus shortening the overall period of payment from six years and five months to five years and seven months.

Solicitors: Charles Russell: Mr Stephen Swan, Southwark,



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to exist and properly to consider whether to appeal. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an application by Input Management Ltd for judicial review of the decision of Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Katkhuda and justices) on June 15, 1998 not to provide Input with proper reasons for their deci-

on November 4, 1997. Input was convicted under sec-ion 33(I)(a) and (c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 of:

sion to reject its appeal against con-victions before Redbridge Justices

(i) failing to discharge its duty under section 3(1)(a) as an employer to ensure so far as reasonably practicable that persons outside its employment were not exposed to

health and safety risks and (ii) of failing to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of health and safety risks to persons outside its employment under section 3(1)(a) and (b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (SI 1992 No 2051).

Mr Kevin De Haan for the applicani; Mr David Travers for Redbridge London Borough Council; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said the applicant company engaged a contractor to install a one metre mirror ball at its nightchub. Following faulty installation, the ball fell, injuring two people and the applicant was convicted.

On appeal to the crown court the

applicant argued that because it

had done all that was reasonably

practicable to ensure sale installation by employing reputable contractors, it had complied with its duty under section 3(1) of the 1974 Act and had not breached its duty under the 1992 Regulations.

At the end of the hearing, the judge and justices retired and upon return the judge announced that the court found the allegations proved, was not proposing to give reasons, and that the sentence would be increased to a fine substantially greater than that given to the contractor.

Following requests by the appli-cant for reasons for the decision to miss the appeal and increase the fine, the judge merely said that the applicant ought to have checked that the ball was working properly. No proper reasons were iven for the disparity of sentence that arose as a result between the contractor and the applicant. who could have been considered less cul-

After leave to move for judicial

review was granted, the judge sent

a note signed by himself and pre-

pared some time after the appeal to the Divisional Court. His Lordship

said that the court could not have

regard to the note as it was not supported by affidavit nor signed by the other justices. Even if it could, the applicant ought to have been provided with proper reasons at the time of the de-

cision or immediately afterwards. His Lordship, adopting the reasoning of the court in R v Secretary of State for the Home Department. 11. 1994), said that the applicant ought to have known as soon as could be and reasonably contemporaneously what the reasons were in order that he could be assured and have no suspicion that there was no subsequent rationalisation, see the nature of criminality found by the court to exist and properly consider whether to apply for a

case to be stated. The crown court failed to fulfill its obligation to give reasons with-in a reasonable time and what was done subsequently was not a satisfactory substitute. The case would be remitted to a differently constituted crown court.

Solicitors: Downs, Dorking; Mr Eddie Davie, Redbridge.

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THEATRE Blanchett excels in night of Plenty

THE TIMES

DANCE The man who makes the world turn

PAGE 39



NEW MOVIES: James Christopher sees future shock played for laughs in the amiably flesh-crawling eXistenZ

Cronenberg's tricks of the light

has never let good taste sabotage his tuturistic movies. In his latest creation, eXistenZ. he shows no signs of relenting. As in his previous film. Crash. there are bits that make you wince. But here the horror is infinitely more playful and as fabulously barmy as anything he's dreamt up before. How much of eXistenZ is knowing comedy, and how much of it is just inadvertently corny, is the most enjoyable puzzle of this intriguing film. The near future is crawling

with mutant swamp life from poisoned rivers. Society is hooked on virtual-reality computer games. The corporations that make them are the multizillion-dollar powerbrokers. The new superstars are the game designers. And the ultimate nerd is Jennifer Jason Leigh's grungy, reclusive Allegra Geller, the creator of eXistenZ, a game that taps so deeply into its users' fears and desires that it blurs the boundaries between reality and escapism. The rules of the game, indeed its very point, are defined by the players themselves: their morals, their principles, their psychological ties. It's virtual existentialism.

When anti-game fanatics attempt to assassinate Leigh she is forced to flee in the company of Jude Law's marketing trainee, who has never played a computer game in his life. Leigh needs Law to enter the game with her to assess the damage done to her priceless computer pod, a sort of organic vibrating jelly. The problem is that the pod plugs straight into the nervous system via an umbilical cord and a socket in the spinal column. Getting one of these fitted to the less than enthusiastic Law- "I have this phobia about having my body penetrated" - is one of the funniest and squelchiest moments in the film. As in his last original script. Videodrome (1982), Cronenberg is mesmerised by the thought of

fusing flesh and machine. But the beauty of eXistenZ is that it is disturbingly close to reality. The game transports Law and Leigh to a sort of urban warehouse land where they are pursued by corporate spies and a bloodthirsty, extremist group of "realists" out to collect the \$5 million bounty on Leigh's head. The game en-



"Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist", but you can't hold Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh responsible for the ultimate failure of existenZ

number of eye-popping twists. Law and Leigh become labourers on a production line where grubby workers hack up mutant frogs for biotech parts, and take their lunch breaks in a ghastly Chinese restaurant. Here Law, after chomping his way through the equivalent of Naked Lunch, uses the gristle and bone to construct a gun which he uses to murder the waiter with a well-aimed human molar. Ian Holm's crackpot German inventor and Willem Dafoe's gas station mechanic, flashing his familiar manic toothy grins, pop up like arcade cameos.

The real problem lies in identifying with the central

plugged into my nervous system. The moody, sexy Leigh is convincingly obsessive: Law is endearingly bemused. But in a film where absolutely everything is not as it seems, it is impossible to get involved. There are nags and teases that itch away long after the final credits have rolled, but Cronenberg the philosopher is really

Cronenberg the illusionist. Neil Jordan's paranormal chiller, In Dreams, also plays with levels of reality. I have never seen a more stunning opening, in which police divers search for the victims of a serial killer in a town that lies like a grave at the bottom of a lake. But. despite feeding

- the murder of an only child Bruce Robinson's script fails to live up to this masterly visual suspense. Annette Bening plays a

housewife whose dreams of or-

chards and frightened children turn out to be premonitions of a serial killer's intentions. But the fact that no one, including her husband (Aidan Quinn), believes her is the film's real nightmare. Her psychiatrist, Stephen Rea, sees madness where he should see clairvoyance. The camera charts Bening's disintegration with the slick, predatory feel of a stalker. It is an extraordinary performance by Bening, who has to lose her mind in the killer's imagination to prove her sanity. You can see the hysteria in her eyes and hear the fear plucking at her throat as her dreams are besieged by the killer's personality.

You can also see exactly what beguiled Jordan. Dream logic is one of the most powerful tools of suspense. Unfortunately it doesn't always chime with the prosaic business of a Hollywood plot. The moment Bening's fears are made flesh - the moment, in fact, that Robert Downey Jr's madman steps into frame - is the moment Jordan's bubble of suspense is popped. The magic evaporates. The horror turns to schlock. What's hinted at but never explored is why Bening should be the conduit for Downey's diseased thoughts. Therein lies the better film.

al Kilmer stars as a blind masseur in the first of the week's three sticky, slowburning romances. At First Sight, based on a true case documented by Dr Oliver Sacks, is potentially the most interesting. Having fallen in love with a New York architect, Mira Sorvino, Kilmer is persuaded to undergo an operation that might restore the sight he lost as a toddler. The suspense is pinned to the statistic that only 20 such successful reversals have taken place over the past

200 years. As the title implies, it is a success. But, rather than leaping about with delight, Kilmer is traumatised. Images slew across his sightlines, sickeningly out of focus. His blind assumptions about the world are

shattered as he crashes into shop windows, looks blankly at faces and freaks out at parties. It's a powerful performance, full of petulance and frustration. Understandably, the director, Irwin Winkler, is far keener on exploring Kilmer's dislocation than massaging the tedious love interest. Needless to say, so is Kilmer. Sorvino's thankless task is to pick up the pieces and act confused. The result is a romance that is horribly lopsided and under-

cal students than lovers. Somehow I can't see Germaine Greer or Andrea Dworkin breaking into a muck sweat over Marshall Herskovitz's feminist romp set in 16thcentury Venice. The Honest Courtesan is such a frothy package it dissolves almost as soon as it reaches the screen. Frustrated in her love for Ru-

hand, of more interest to medi-

fus Sewell's roaring aristocrat. Catherine McCormack's lowborn poet sets about carving her glamorous emancipation in Italy's glossiest brothel, the Venetian Court. Under the expert tutelage of her mother (Jacqueline Bisset), McCormack's lusty virgin is primed and briefed like James Bond. "Courtesans are the most educated women in the world," instructs the unflappable Bisset. "They can seduce a man at 20 paces with their mind." Hmm.

Her great cleavage helps. Having learnt how to de-your bananas as if they were the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate bar in the world, McCormack beds a procession of drooling senators and fat bishops, and even spanks the French King into submission. To spice up the grand romance. Sewell is sent packing to Cyprus to fight a war, the Plague promptly arrives and kills 56,000 people, and the Inquisition bowls into town. There's clearly something here

for everyone.

Paul Morrison's Solomon & Gaenor is a sharp antidote to the above trippery. In a Welsh mining town, circa 1911. an illicit romance is meticulously hatched between a young Jewish immigrant (loan Gruffudd) and prim lo-cal girl (Nia Roberts). They are both poor as peanuts. He sells cloth for his stern parents. She fills tin baths for her Protestant coalmining father and her brute brother, the wonderfully named Crad (Mark Lewis Jones). Snatched kisses lead to passion in the havloft. But Solomon's refusal to reveal his Jewish identity — he calls him-self Sam and won't introduce Roberts to his parents — puts him in a morally intolerable position. The stakes couldn't be higher, what with strikes, pit closures and the suspicious

LINKS Z

Warner Village West End, 15, 92 mins Futuristic horror from David Cronenberg In Dreams Empire, 18, 100 mins Neil Jordan's nightmare thriller At First Sight Plaza, 12, 129 mins Val Kilmer as

eXistenZ

blind beefcake The Honest Courtesan Virgin Haymarket 15. 111 mins Soppy Venetian romance

Solomon & Gaenor Screen-on-the-Hill 15. 104 mins Love among the coalmines

The Waterboy Odeon West End 12, 90 mins College freak makes good

Knock Off Virgin Trocadero 18, 91 mins Rip-off

Crad nursing fists the size of jack-hammers. The dung inevitably hits the fan. There are humiliations. batterings, heartache and rag-

ing blizzards to be negotiated. Thomas Hardy would be hard-pushed to pen a more angst-ridden melodrama. But. despite the final excesses, the romance holds firm around an enchanting performance by Roberts's mousey temptress. whose emotions ring as true as her grim surroundings.

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here is nothing en-Frank Coraci's film. The Waterboy. A college football team from losing streak when the simpleminded weed who dishes out the water turns into a nuclearcharged demolition man. Adam Sandler plays the 31-year-old incompetent routinely humiliated by crosseyed tearn-mates. Even respectable old ladies could be forgiven for giving him a casual kick-ing. Fuelled by grudges and bent out of shape by his mother (Kathy Bates, reprising for the umpteenth time all the perverted charms of her Misery character), Sandler becomes the hero of the Southern mis-

Despite the nonsense it is surprisingly full of gut laughs. Henry Winkler is wonderful as the depressed coach, terminally on the point of tears, but Sandler has neither the class nor wit to clone Tom Hanks's similarly challenged ingenue in Forrest Gump.

Even hardcore Van Damme fans will wince at his latest stunt fest. Knock Off is a pig's ear out of it.







tain age, they often complain that the good parts are not being written for them any more. If only they were vocalists. they could turn to the bittersweet creations of Amanda

Not that the West Coast singr-songwriter's work can be defined purely by age or gender. What she captures so adroitly is the wistfulness of dreams deferred, ambitions unfulfilled, marriages sinking into what her song Dance terms "comfortable despair. Songs as haunting and ethereal as Ship in a Bottle pin down stray emotions as precisely as an Anne Tyler novel.

This might sound like an excuse to wallow in Californian self-pity. It is certainly true that McBroom's heart-onsleeve style can come as a shock to the British system. But she balances the pathos and anguish with humour.

Standards old and new are carefully filtered into the mix. Segues abounded, and Mc-Broom and her flamboyant accompanist Joel Silberman selfconsciously stitched together the verse of Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered and the refrain of My Funny Valentine. She and the worldly Lorenz Hart made a good combination nonetheless.

Jacques Brel provides another source of inspiration, notably in the audacious and de-

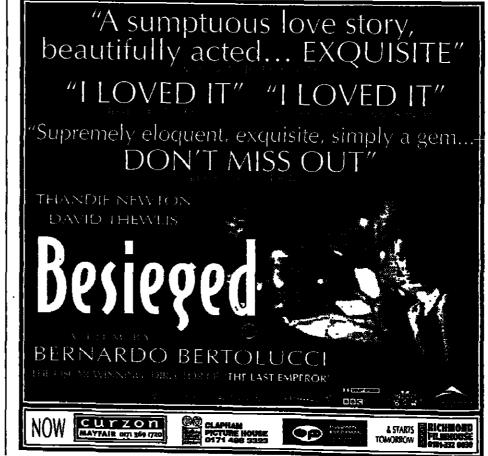


mented waltz that is Carousel. Inexorably gathering speed, until the words teetered on the edge of gibberish, the song brought all of McBroom's acting skills to bear. A more sedate waltz tempo

underpins Errol Flynn, the poignant vignette inspired by her father, the Hollywood actor David Bruce. Barbara Cook has made this song her own; McBroom stole it back. Where most cabaret singers veer towards the conversational, she favours a more theatrical stance, abruptly leaping into the upper register to add emphasis.

Earlier, she had signalled another telling change of gear when she dipped into her high school past to treat Carole King's Will You Love Me Tomorrow as a glowing ballad stripped of artifice. Silberman, who has just guided classical planist Jean-Yves Thibaudet through an album of Ellington melodies, enjoyed his solo moment in the spotlight with an uptown treatment of Don't Get Around Much Any More. Very debonair, very Dukish.

CLIVE DAVIS



numbing medley of kung fu fights, sadistic Russians and Details of new and old film release be found on https://wwith.com double-dealing with CIA agents. Jackie Chan has made Film 99 with Jonathan Rose: 88C1, Wednesday 11 10-an artform out of this kind of film. Van Damme makes a



"The smile is not a skill; it's a gift," Julia Roberts says. "If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents"

What's she got to smile about?

Rather more, it seems, than her character in the forthcoming comedy Notting Hill, or so Julia Roberts tells Matt Wolf

n the new romantic comedy Notting Hill, Julia Roberts plays a hugely successful film star, an Oscar-winning actress whose shining smile is worth \$15 million a movie. In real life. Roberts. 31, has yet to win an Academy Award (although she has been nominated twice, for supporting actress for Steel Magnolias in 1989 and the following year for her ca-reer-making role as the hooker in Pretty Woman). At the same time, her value has gone up to a reported \$17 million a picture for her forth-coming Runaway Bride, which reteams Roberts with her Pretty Woman co-star, Richard Gere, and

its director, Garry Marshall. Nonetheless, it is tempting to reeard Anna Scott, her latest screen heroine, as some variation on Roberts herself. So it comes as a surprise not just to find that Roberts in the flesh comes across as considerably more articulate and self-possessed (and even more beautiful) than Anna, but also to hear the actress distance herself from her character: whatever else Notting Hill may or may not be, its star says it is not to be taken as a convenient essay on art imitating the worries of

"Just because you share an occupation with someone doesn't mean vou're the same person," says Roberts, still energetic at the end of a day of interviews in the city where she spent several months filming Notting Hill last spring. The screenwriter Richard Curtis, Roberts says, "wrote a very specific type of actress in a very specific situation who has very precise ideas and values: I had to just reconcile the differences between us and not to judge her choices, because I didn't always agree with them."

Some actresses might balk at speaking lines in which their character envisages a future when both looks and popularity have faded. ("I'll become a sad middle-aged woman who looks a bit like someone who was famous for a while." Anna tells the English dinner table cronies of her newfound paramour Hugh Grant.)

I don't have those concerns at all," says Roberts. "But, again, we are different people. Anna is still unsure of her own worth, whether as an actor or as a person. What is

more than it would concern me: she's a lot more tragile."

It may be, too, that after 13 years in the profession - most of them near the top of it - Roberts understands the workings of an industry that is increasingly fixated on youth and on, well, locating the next Julia Roberts. "I just know who I am and what I want and why I want it," she says. "As you become an adult, you gather information and life experiences which help to form the person you are and what you aspire to

Of Anna's frets, Roberts contin-ues, "I don't have those concerns and I never have, although that's not to say that one day I may not

> ⁶ I feel liberated and inspired by my life,

wake up and feel some of the insecurity that she expresses." And not to forget, as Roberts points out, that the scene is constructed as a contest to see which dinner guest can be most self-deprecating.

Roberts acknowledges her own career ascent that long ago found her surpassing older brother Eric in the renown sweepstakes and has now positioned her as one of only a handful of actresses within striking distance of the \$20 million-a-movie (or more) earned by the likes of Nicolas Cage, John Travolta and Mel Gibson. (A third sibling is a stage actress based, like Roberts, in Manhattan.)

Has fame been a trap, as Notting Hill suggests it has for its main character? That notion, she says, "makes you guys" — ie, journalists — "seem so powerful. I think there is an essence of truth to it but I don't feel trapped and I don't feel like any-

body has the power but me, and that's not said as a challenge. I feel

liberated and inspired and empow-

ered by my life and the choices that I make and part of the choice is what I do, and I find it freeing, not

trapping."
The public, though, clearly prefers Roberts happy, flashing that now-celebrated grin that her Stepmom co-star, Susan Sarandon, Tias compared to "the sun coming out". But Roberts insists that she be allowed to pursue darker screenpaths and invokes her involvement in the unsuccessful Mary Reilly to make her point. With that film, Roberts recalls, "people were saying, Why is she so dour?" But what on earth does Mary Reilly have to smile about: getting up at 4am and spit-shining shoes? Should I be sing

ing a little song?" In any case, the Roberts smile "is " not a skill, it's a gift. If you want to appreciate somebody for that, thenappreciate my parents. If people are going to support me, or pretend to support me, my belief is that they must support my desire to be a good actor, and in order to be a good actor it is my obligation to my desire to try different things. If I did the same thing all the time, how quickly would people get bored? They would be like, 'She's smiling again; oh God, that smile."

ate next month Robertsgets serious again, playing the title role of a secretary who becomes embroiled in the biggest civil action suit ever in Steven Soderbergh's Erin Brockovitch, a Universal film based on a true story. "The reason I do a movie is the same as it was ten years ago. she says. "I like it or I don't, period. I respond on some level which is all my own regardless of what seems to be public demand."

And what about the real question posed by Notting Hill: could a film star ever fall for a mere mortal; as-Anna does for the travel bookshop owner, played by Grant? "Look, as a working actor one is far more likely to meet and spend one's greatest. amount of time with other actors. But separate and apart from that, I don't believe we are what we do: I'm not actor-Julia; I'm Julia, If you are with the right person and you have that amazing well of communication and support, then anything is understandable."

Notting Hill opens in London on

Possessed by low-tech chills

THE EXORCIST

ine Honey

- 25 csan

iátnor

Warner, 18, 1973 I THINK the country's moral fabric can survive the rental release of this horror show, long banned on video. It's the tale, if you need reminding, of the battle for the soul of a possessed young girl (Linda Blair). A modern remake would go to town depicting the child's violence; director William Friedkin prefers bursts and snatches. And just look at the low-tech bile flying from the girl's mouth: it looks about as harmless as baby food. Blair, 14 at the time, writhes and scowls nicely, but the face that haunts is Jason Miller's. as the Jesuit priest with a faltering faith.

■ I WANT YOU

PolyGram, 18, 1998 IN A depressed seaside town Rachel Weisz's hairdresser suffers the loving gazes of a silent 14-year-old refugee and the un-

NEW VIDEO RELEASES

CLASSICAL CDS: Ancient French music; new Danish; passionate Italian

wanted attentions of her former boyfriend, now on parole after a murder conviction (Alessandro Nivola). This latest film from hot British director Michael Winterbottom. inspired by the song by Elvis Costello, is his most European yet in style, dazzlingly shot on Hastings locations, with surreal atmosphere galore. Available to rent.

■ LES MISERABLES

Entertainment, 12, 1998 VICTOR HUGO's huge novel turns up here in straight dramatic form, inevitably much abbreviated, directed by Bille August. No great artistic heights are scaled, but at least the story takes less time to watch than to read. Liam Neeson is disappointing as the former prisoner Valjean trying to shake off his past; Claire

Italian Ermete Novelli, most impressive as King Lear. Fine prints, considering the materi-Danes looks out of place as the al's age; sensitive musical acgirl raised as his own child: companiment. Uma Thurman suffers sweetly STILL CRAZY as the ill-fated Fantine; and Ge-

won't let bygones be bygones. A rental release.

offrey Rush impresses as po-

lice inspector Javert, who

comedy about the attempted comeback of Strange Fruit, a long-disbanded 1970s British rock band. Bill Nighy is the ■ SILENT SHAKESPEARE ego-inflated lead singer. Jim-HISTORIANS and Bard fancimy Nail strums a mean guiers, rejoice. Here is a wondertar, Stephen Rea jerks out ful tape that dips into the Nachords on the keyboard, Timothy Spall bashes the drums. tional Film and Television Archive for seven silent stabs at and Billy Connolly drives the filming Shakespeare, three bus. They are good enough company, and director Brian from Britain, two apiece from America and Italy. Primitive? Gibson knows a thing or two Of course. But you still gaze in awe at these fragments, featurabout presenting music in films. If only everyone were ing Herbert Beerbohm Tree as not so tethered to the script's King John (filmed in 1899), an compendium of cliches. A rentenergetic Richard III from

GEOFF BROWN

are Janet Baker and Rosalind

Donizetti upset convention

dark tones in her voice as well

as the chilling strength of the

upper register show how right

she was for the part. This may

be Donizetti, but the role de

mands the qualities of a Verdi

too much self-pity as Mary, sto-

ic in the final act after giving

as good as she gets at the fa-

mous, if fictitious, meeting be-

as rival courtiers. Charles

Baker does not indulge in

dramatic soprano.

Columbia TriStar, 15. 1998

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CHORAL

MACHAUT

Clerks' Group/Wickham Signum SIGCDO!! * * * £14.99 WAR, plague and a schismatic

papal court this is the world of the 14th-century composer Guillaume de Machaut as presented by the Clerks' Group and Edward Wickham on this enticing disc, the first of a series of three to feature a particular medieval manuscript. and other music by one composer from that manuscript So Machaut's motets are in-

set here within a framework of anonymous Mass music associated with Avignon from the lyrea Codex, the prime source for ars nova music. Much of it is recorded here for the first time: the Clerks' Group is already well-known for championing neglected Renaissance repertoire, and its cunning programming enriches its fresh performances, recorded in an airy church acoustic.

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The performers are alert to both the play and the passion within this music — as, for instance, a sensuous and intimate motet comes up against an exuberantly expanded Sanctus, or as a mischievously archaic ditty faces the public splendour of a post-Mass exhortation.

HILARY FINCH.

ORCHESTRAL

RUDERS Symphony No 2: Piano Concerto Hind/Danish National RSO/

Schonwandt/Stenz Da Capo 8 224125 * * £14.99 THE Danish composer Poul Ruders sprang to fame here in 1996, when his witty Concerto in Pieces was given at the Last Night of the Proms. The recent Second Symphony, which comes to London tomorrow tolayed by the Brunel Ensemble at St John's Smith Square). presents a very different face of Ruders - though not neces-

sarily a more typical one. Cast in a single movement lasting 28 minutes, it is hardly comfortable listening, but in Michael Schonwandr's reading makes a powerful statement about our troubled

times. Halfway through, urgent trumpet tattoos obtrude, followed by a long, disjointed horn theme. A background tex-Plowright firing on all cylinders as the rival queens of Scotland and England. ture of ever-increasing complexity offers little respite, and by making the soprano the vilinsistent drums gradually lainess while assigning the make their presence felt. This souful victim to the mezzo. Plowright is full of fire as Elizais but a portent of the final rebeth, breathing vengeance on onslaught, underninned by savage percussion. all who flout her will. The

Frank Benson (shot on Strat-

ford's stage in 1911), and the

The Piano Concerto (soloist: Rolf Hind) is less oppressive, though textures are sparse in the extreme. Ruders's control of materials is masterly, however, and there is much to enjoy as well as admire in Markus Stenz's account.

BARRY MILLINGTON

OPERA

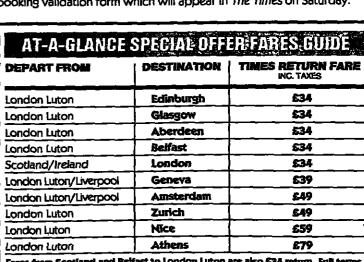
■ DONIZETTI Mary Stuart Plowright/Baker/Rendall/ Opie/Tomlinson/ENO Orch/Mackerras. Chandos CHAN 3017(2) (2 CDs) * * * £19.99 CHANDOS, zealous in the cause of opera in English, has acquired some of the recordings made during live performances at the Coliseum in the tween the two monarchs outside Chatsworth. It is a female-dominated work, but David Rendall and John Tomlinson seize their opportunites

Mackerras is the superb conductor: would that he had givearly 1980s. Few evenings were more glorious than

JOHN HIGGINS

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en us more Donizetti while at the Coliseum.



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ARTS

THEATRE Lear with a difference

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

A SAINT SHE AINT: 8any Cryer and Jessica Martin in a parody MGM musical by Dick Vosburgh and Danis King, Ned Shemin directs. King's Head (0171-226 1916). Opens tonight, 7.30pm, (5)

PUSHIKIN MEMORIAL in honour of the Russian poet, born 200 years ago, the London Symphony Orchestra under Massian Rosanponich performs Russian music by Tchalkovsky and Prokofiev, as well as a UK premiere, a Violin Concert by Rodion Shichedin, with Maxim Venoerto by Rodion Shichedin, with Maxim Venoerto as solids. can (0171-638 8891). Tonight



Ulrika Jonsson treads the boards in Birmingham

HANOVER BAND. The acclaime soprano Catrin Wyn-Davies joins the period band in this concert simed at period band in this concert aimed at capturing the atmosphere of Paris at the start of the lest century. Works by Méhul, Arriaga, Berinoz and Beethoven teature. Maithew Best conducts. St John's (0171-222 1061). Tonight,

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The Pejama Game is a time-packed musicel by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, starting Urifla Jonsson, Anita Dobson and John Hegley, Simon Catlow directs, with choreography by David Birdley, designed by Frank Stella. First major British revival for 40 years. Repertory (0121-236 4465). Opens Longht, 7:30pm. [5]

COVENTRY: Decian Dormelian's awardwinning production of The Winter's Tale for the Maly Theatre of Si Petersburg. Five-week British bour starts here. With English surnites. Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

GLASGOW: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Richard Strauss's death Alexander Lazarev conducts the Royal Scottlish National Orchestra in a concert performance of the com-poser's emotionally burbulent opera Elektra based on the Greek myth. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

Tonight, 7-30pm, (2)
MANCHESTER: The distinguished volinist Pinches Zukerman opens his concert here with something of a curiosity, a work by Mozart's youngest son Franc Xaver. This is followed by pieces by Takemitsu and somitas by Schumann and Bratems. Marc Neërong accompanies on the plano. Bridgewater Hell (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7-30pm. (2)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London 🖪 House full, returns only 🖸 Some sests available 🗆 Seats at all prices

■ PLENTY: Cale Blanchett plays David Hare's heroine in her years of dissent from 1943 to the 1960s. Jonathan Kent directs first major revival for 21 years. See review, right. Albery (0171-369 1740).

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY: Prunella Scales and Timothy West head a strong cast in Pinter's first full-length play, merhorably joining comedy and menuca. Joe Harmston directs. Piccadilly (0171-369 1734).

Piccadany (UTT-1005 1109).

If SLEEP WITH ME: Penny Downie, Jonathan Hyde and Adrian Lukis star in Hanif Kureishi's tragi-comic satire exposing the cheotic lives of a group of friends, Anthony Page directs.

Cottestoe(0171-452 3000).

■ MAMMA MALL Enjoyable musical that tells a tale of three fathers of a bride at order to steer a barmy way through a toment of Abba hits. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER: Shela Gish plays the vanomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised niece

☐ MAKING NOISE QUIETLY: Domi nic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war.

☐ THE GIN GAME: Dorothy Tutin and Jose Acidend play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Barbury directs the Pulitzer winner.
Savoy (0171-636 8889). ⑤

THE DISPUTE: Superb production by Neil Bestlett of his translation of Manyaux where four impresented adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time. Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2311).

SPRING AWAKENING: Theatre 26's highly praised production of Wedekind's once barried play of schoolboy love, abortion and parental hypocrisy. Staphen Henry Grects.

Tristan Bates (0171-240 3840).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

8em (18): Nicolas Cage. In his most magnetic role ever, plays a private

BESIEGED (PG): Bernardo Bertolucci's Ach in this strange romance between wid Thewis and Thandie Newton Is quisitely light and subtle. A vintage romance and a thrilling film.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (12): A corted romance with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn. A tear-jerker. Take a life-jackel, Luis Mandoki directs.

THE BRYLCREEM BOYS (15): With Gebrieb Hish beloney set in a Kildere prisoner-of-war camp in 1941 With Gebriel Byrne, Joe McGenn and Angue MacFadyen. Terence Ryan is

OUT OF THE PRESENT (U): Russian space documentary. A seriously stippery account of endurance.

DANCE WITH ME (PG): A kitsch feest for Come Dancing enthustasts with a fittle Latin heartache on the side.

MISADVENTURES OF MARGARET (15): Brian Skeet's urban romance throws Parker Posey and Jeremy Northam into a dismal, sex-obsess

CURRENT

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG): Ofwer AN IDEAL HUSBANIU (PG): Onver Parker's sumptious homege to Wilde's ever-fashionable play is bljacked by Rupert Evereti's madly chaming Lord Goring. With Jeremy Northam and Cate Blanchett.

HAPPINESS (18): Poisonous but gripping black comedy about dismet urban attempts to fand happiness. Todd Solondz's film walks an original, edgy line between fantastic humour and ghastly habits.

PROMETHEUS (15): Tony Harrison's dense, awesome film-poem is a work of surread genius and endless layers. Michael Fasat is camp and compelling as Zeus's flumity who looks at what exactly we have achieved and destinated with the control of the contro

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meaty courtroom drams with John Travolts and Robert Duvall in sparking form as two sharks in a multi-million dollar case about losic dumping. Steven Zailian directs.



Cate Blanchett's Susan Traherne with Debra Gillett as her bohemian friend and Julian Wadham as her put-upon husband in Plenty

Crazy pieces of Cate

hether or not Plenty is David Hare's finest play, and there are sage voices who make that certainly has one great strength. Does anyone write better parts for women than Hare? And can you think of a character who makes more demands on an actress's mind. heart and stomach than the one that, 21 years after the premiere of the play, Cate Blanchett robustly tackles for the Almeida company? When we meet her Susan Tra-

herne it is London in 1962, and she is a middle-aged Foreign Office wife about to leave the husband whose career she has ruined. Then the scene switches back to occupied France in 1943, and we begin to see the reasons British agent, meeting a spy who has dropped by parachute into Gestapo country, and, despite the tears that suddenly erupt from a seemingly controlled Blanchett, she feels purposeful, significant, even patriotic.

Hare's point is that we emerged from the Hitler war believing that England would soon flow with milk and honey. "Plenty" was promised; but, by the time Hare's darting, cinematic narrative has reached mid-1962, what has mainly been delivered is thwarted dreams.

This seemed a pretty simplistic summary of recent history back in 1978 - didn't Hare's political friends get their hands on our education system, for instance, and make an awful hash of it? - and it does so still. Yet the writing is always lively and often

THEATRE funny, and the central role (in a pro-

duction sponsored by AT&T) more than that. Susan is a muddle and a puzzle, a conformist rebel and a destructive idealist. Her war left her longing for a nation fit for heroes. It also made her tricky and callous, restless and self-absorbed. Blanchett gives us more of these

contradictions than either Kate Nelligan, whose 1978 Susan erred on the intellectually incisive side, or Meryl

ondheim had a go at turning this Aristophanes comedy into a musical, but it didn't work. And Fiona Laird's attempt (sponsored by Sainsbury's Checkout Theatre) is a real mess, seldom funny, un-exciting and a punishment to hear.

You could say that her translation honours the script in keeping dozens of the passing references to political events in Athens in the final year of the Peloponnesian War. If you wish to know what the reactionary author thought of the democratic leaders in 405BC you may be able to catch a remark if the actor's mike is properly attached and adjusted. But you would also have to be sitting where these supposed aids do not turn actors' voices into babble and squawk.

streeped about altogether too forfornly. We watch her moping over the advertising copy she has been hired to write, firing her gun at the affable prole who has failed to make her pregnant, raging at the perversity of Suez, smashing her posh flat in useless protest against the wealth she thinks is killing her, and impotently trying to rediscover that lost youth in France. All this asks Blanchett to be svelte and assured, bitter and brassy, crazily aggressive, and, as when her doomed hopes of motherhood enter the emotional equation, oddly vulner-able; and Blanchett gives us the lot.

If she occasionally pushes zaniness towards melodrama, she has a builtin excuse, which is that, as she herself says, Susan "likes to lose con-

Nontre par Payause

Hare priggishly suggested when he said he was showing "the struggle of a heroine against a deceitful and emo-tionally stultified class.". Add Maria Björnson's series of period-picture sets; throw in able performances from the rest of Jonathan Kent's cast, including Julian Wadham as Susan's put-upon spouse, Debra Gillett as her bohemian-drifter

my regard both for the play, which

can seem didactic, and for the charac-

ter, a far more intriguing lady than

you have Plenty enough to enjoy. BENEDICT

friend, and Richard Johnson and Jeremy Child as senior diplomats; and

NIGHTINGALE • This review appeared in some editions of

What's Yiddish for Bard?

ear as a woman? Well, we get used to that. Lear living in 1930s New York? Plus ça change! Lear as a female Yiddish star of the Thirties New York stage? Time to explain.

Julia Pascal's charmingly quirky new play is both a free reworking of Shakespeare and a homage to the lost world of Yiddish theatre. The language of the shtetl, given dramatic form in Eastern Europe and exported by emigrants to New York, gave voice to a rich and varied theatrical tradition until its culture was wiped out in the war. Pascal takes us on a whistle-stop tour of the full range, from sparkling music-hall comedy and plaintive song to improvisation, while showing an endearing lack of reverence for her subject. Her play opens with three terrible actors auditioning for a Yiddish Hamlet, each of

Yiddish Queen Lear Southwark Playhouse

whom mangles the inevitable to-beor-not-to-be soliloguy to predictably awful effect.

But Pascal also offers a moving snapshot of prewar Yiddish culture and its clash with the American way of life; and this is where Lear comes in. Her Lear is Esther Laranovska, once the most famous Yiddish actress on Broadway. Turned 60 and losing her health, she decides to hand over her theatre business to her three

One, Channa (read Cordelia), says she wants nothing, and gets nothing; the other two, Gail and Rachel (Goneril and Regan), take it all and buy themselves a new nightclub. When Esther interferes in their twisted personal life, they throw her out on the street, where she busks and sleeps rough with her loyal friends Annie and Joseph (the Fool and Kent, loosely) until Channa whisks them back to Europe. As in Lear, though here with a chilling historical twist, things end ill for all.

The two idioms rub along well for the most part. Esther is played by Ruth Posner (herself a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto) with a touching blend of distraction and dignity. Of the rest of the cast, all of them strong and idiosyncratic, the three sisters are best. The lovely Natasha Pollard makes a sweet Channa; Tiffany Papageorge as Rachel and particularly Amanda Boxer as Gail are gloriously selfish and bitchy.

NIGEL CLIFF

ters double up on roles with no change of costume — but shortage of cash need not mean poverty of invention. When Jonjo O'Neill turns from playing Dionysus's Belfast-born slave to a leather-jacketed Euripides

get energy into her song and dance routines (the music is also hers). Inevitably the style embraces various pop genres, with Jonathan Kemp's Aeschylus favouring gospel and Euripides hurtling into rap. The words are incomprehensible, of course, and without words and a sense of imminent danger the play collapses into pointless, mirthless silliness.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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BLOOD BROTHERS

By HAROLD PINTER Mon-Set Spin, Thur 3pm, Set 5pm

neys down to Hades to find one, crossing the lake where the eponymous amphibians croak their famous "Brekeke-kex, ko-ax, ko-ax!" The recently dead Euripides and the older, grimmer Aeschylus compete 10 be

The plot tells of an Athens in need of a clear-sighted man who will save the city. A knockabout Dionysus jour-

Hop off, squawking

tophanes was proposing as the city's only hope. What chance have we of distinguishing between forgotten leaders and quotations from lost tragedies, even if half the sentences uttered were not scrambled in the journey from stage to audience? Evidently the production has been mounted on a lean budget - charac-

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verse at a pair of scales to see which will carry the greater weight. Two and a half millennia ago an audience would have relished the al-

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lusions and understood what Aris-

he elects to keep the same accent. Laird's chief concern seems to be to

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THEATRE

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John Ashford at The Place "I don't think it's made a difference, but I've had a good time"

Godfather of modern dance

rifle and drill hall in Central London, has long been one of Britain's most important dance and choreographic centres. It was here, in 1969, that the arts philanthropist and Martha Graham devotee Robin Howard found a permanent home for his Contemporary Dance Trust. Howard's initiatives remain the energy source for most of British modern

Nearly 20 years later, John Ashford received Howard's seal of approval when he was hired as director of The Place's intimate, 300-seat theatre. Today it is primarily thanks to Ashford that, as a performance venue, The Place has become a mecca for fans of both home-grown and global dance. A singularly savvy programmer, this dapper 54-yearold has carved out a niche for himself as the UK's godfather

of new contemporary moves. Ashford has instituted a handful of ambitious, annual themed seasons including Re: Orient (contemporary dance from the Asian Pacific, together with work by Asian-British artists). Spring Loaded (a three-month celebration of the diversity of British dance) and Resolution! (a platform for shorter works by emerging artists from the UK and abroad. lasting seven weeks).

The theatre's first job is to offer a platform to British work," Ashford maintains. Yet, when I arrived, I felt that as dance has an international currency there should be an international aspect to the programme. I had to find devices to invite that work. The Turning World was the vehicle."

The name is lifted from T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets: "At the still point of the turning world... there the dance is. Conceived in 1990, this annual season of international dance and dance-theatre was destined from the start to terminate in 1999. "It was always billed as a season dancing to the edge of a millennium'." Ashlord says, "and then we'd stop and think."

A decade on, it's easy to map out just how far The Turning World has travelled. Think of it as a kind of multicultural passport, transporting London audiences to a panorama of new kinetic landscapes. Although performances are centred on The Place, additional and significant sites have been provided by the South Bank

about to stop turning for John

Ashford of The Place.

Donald Hutera finds out why

Centre, Sadler's Wells and, this year, the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Working with programmers from those venues, Ashford has been instrumental in importing work by nearly a hundred artists from almost two dozen countries, including Japan, Tunisia and, this year, Brazil, which will send the Deborah Colker com-

pany, and Australia, which is • It was my decision to end it. read about it, or study it. I just

Ten years. That's all ?

represented by Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Thea-

A majority of artists, including a sizeable number of re-peat visitors, have hailed from Europe: Belgium's Wim Vandekeybus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Spain's Vicente Saez and, from Germany. Rui Horta.

shford casts the Euro connection in a political light. "We've gone to the north gotten Scandinavian and work, south for Spanish and Portuguese work, and east to Slovenia. Hungary and the Czech Republic. The geographical spread is very important to me. The more people there are who are knowledgeable about what happens in other European countries - whether through dance or by another means - the more we are likely to come to terms with Europe's history this century, and get on with playing our

The world is proper part in it in the next." Neatly, the conclusion of The Turning World coincides with a major refurbishment of

The Place. The National Lottery, through the Arts Council of England, has awarded the complex just over £5 million for a revamp that will commence in June and be completed by late spring of 2001. The King's Cross Partnership has also given £750,000 towards the 25 per cent matching funding the project requires, leaving The Place to raise an additional £900,000. All this will translate into easier and more welcoming access, a new café and proper bar, new toilets, lifts and dressing rooms, and a block of state-of-the-art studios. The building work is un-likely directly to affect dance programming until next June. when the theatre space itself

will undergo its facelift. Ashford started out wanting to be a theatre director, and in the late Sixties worked with the likes of Caryl Churchill and David Hare. He was also founding theatre editor of Time Out magazine. But his interest grew in dance. "So I took two years off to research dance here and throughout the world, just using contacts I'd made in theatre. I didn't

looked at it." The passion Ashford developed for recognising and mur-turing new talent is fuelled by The Place's several choreographic residency programmes and seasons like The Turning World, but Ashford's dedication reaches beyond that. "Some stuff you just have to be committed to through thick and thin," he explains. There are one or two artists. like Slovenia's Iztok Kovac, whose work we've supported all the way for reasons which are not only to do with the quality of that work."

He professes to have no regrets about The Turning World's imminent demise. "It was my decision. Ten years. That's all. During that decade much more international work has been presented in London. Perhaps when others saw that we could successfully attract audiences for work that was absolutely unknown, they felt more confident about tak-

ing the same kind of risks."
He pauses. "No, that's not true I don't think it's made that much difference. But I've

had a very good time." The Turning World runs from May 4 to June 12 (0171-387 0031)

BROADCASTING: Peter Barnard on the day

Bad news, badly done

ephone, for The Times. The in-terview was for a piece about lo-cal radio and I wanted to speak to someone of her stature who had started out in the make-the-tea, read-thenews milieu that local radio was in

mains now.

Dando was in some far-flung location, filming for BBCI's Holiday pro-gramme, when she got the message that I would like to speak to her. An ar-rangement was made that she would telephone me at 3pm one day. The call came no more than three minutes after that time. She began with a pro-

her day and, to a large extent, re-

interviewed her only once, by tel-

fuse apology for being "late". Much has been said and written in the past few days about Dando's humility and lack of affectation and I think that my experience of her con-firms both. She was also a person with a sense of proportion, so one must wonder what on earth she would have made of the coverage of her murder on the day that it hap-

Radio 5 Live was essential listening on Monday afternoon, but there were moments - too many moments when some listeners must have echoed the feelings of a letter in The

Flawed

airing

of first

draft

"Greek Myths" tribute to Richard Strauss came in the form of the first version of Ariadne. It's not such a rarity as his wrong headed but riveting re-

wrong-headed but riveting re-working of Idomeneo: this marriage of Molière's Bour-geois Gentilhomme and the Ar-iadne chamber opera was ful-ly and memorably staged at the Edinburgh Festival two years ago. In fact it is a perfect-ly valid alternative: sharper, more alienatury, but pear-im-

more alienatory, but near-im-practicable in terms of person-

Tuesday's version was semi-staged, with the halfhearted, hangdog routines for the commedia troupe making

one wish it had been in purely concert form. The Molière

was replaced with a genial narration which was written

and delivered by Nigel Doug-las in splendiferous 18th-centu-

He had some good jokes

about new and old money.

OPERA

129.0

much appreciated by an audi-

ence in which, as someone un-

kindly remarked, the braving

classes were well represented

There was nothing on the sub-

ject of what the opera might

be about - a pity - and nei-

ther the blind nor the deaf

could have mistaken this ele-gant, soigné M Jourdain for a

One good reason for per-forming Ariadne I is Strauss's witty incidental music for the

play, but unfortunately the CLS was having an off-night

- far too many fluffs - and

Richard Hickox gave little in-

dication of why he wanted to

conduct this piece fast, un-

yielding tempos, a depressing, indeed incomprehensible absence of nuance, lack of con-

cern for internal or external

balance in this most fastidi-

ously scored music. Things went a little better bashing

through the purple passages in the opera, but not much.

So, thank heavens for the singers, led by Christine Brew-er's magnificent Ariadue.

sumptuous of tone, as delicate

of phrase as the conductor al-

lowed, heroic in delivery.

She's a perfectly lovely singer.

The only criticism of Cyn-dia Sieden's Zerbinetta is that

she made it sound far too easy. It is, of course, much

harder in this version, the fi-

nal section of her aria a tone

higher with forests of top Es and a top F sharp. Sieden flung it all off with insouciant

ease in a truly virtuoso per-formance. Adrian Thompson

was a robust, verbally incisive Bacchus, and Roderick Wil-liams made his mark in Harle-

Nigel Douglas had the last

word: "I'm afraid I slept

through most of that." I'm

afraid that for much of the

RODNEY MILNES

time I rather envied him.

kin's arietta.

social climber.

nel and budget.

ry costume.

he second operatic of-fering in the City of London Sinfonia's

the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the violent death of one of its own

coverage of the event was out of all pro-portion . . . " Yes, I am afraid it was. Ian Payne's afternoon show on 5 Live bore the brunt. Let it be said right away that Payne and his producer were in an extremely difficult position, given that the story of the day con-

cerned someone virtually every BBC broadcaster knew. It was understandable that such people would have their emotions on show. There is, however, a requirement to respond to tough situations with tough

decisions. Restraint is everything, hype must be ruthlessly expunged, exaggeration has no place. A story such as Dando's murder tells itself and should be allowed to do so. That did not happen on Monday, when we were treated to the worst excesses of the

The result was coverage that became embarrassing, save for the moment when Nick Ross, Dando's co-presenter on Crimewatch UK and an outstand-

Times yesterday from a reader who said that the "effusiveness of the BBC's anon, came on the line. The exchange began along these lines. Payne: "This is the worst day ever, isn't it?" Ross: "I wouldn't quite go that far ..." I should think not.

On every BBC news bulletin that 1 heard or saw, Dando was referred to throughout as "Jill". This was unprecedented. It was also proof that the BBC had allowed its own relationship with Dando to come between it and the story. The use of the first name on its own amounts to editorialising, for it puts the subject of the story in a category separate from all others. This was news for grown-ups being treated as if it were an item on the children's proeramme Newsround.

In the evening BBCl ran a half-hour tribute to Dando, fronted by Desmond Lynam. It was dreadful, a thrown-together collage transmitted in haste to be repented at leisure. Just when we needed Dando the three-dimensional person, we got more of the two-dimensional presenter we already knew. It

the BBC, which hardly ever puts out tribute programmes so soon after a death. Why did it happen this time? My mind went back to the sudden, though natural, death of Brian Redhead a few years ago. An important story, but one that was seriously over-cooked on the *Today* programme, which at times that morning sounded like an in-house network rather than a national broadcaster. The same impression was conveyed on Monday. It

was, quite simply, too much. I liked Dando, as a presenter and as a person. The enthusiasm with which she recalled, during that conversation with me, her training at Radio Devon demonstrated that here was a household name who was proud of her roots rather than (like some) trying to bury them beneath the luxuriant foliage of

Dando was a good journalist and a warm presenter. Her murder was and remains both a tragedy and a major news story. But she was hardly a towering presence on the broadcasting landscape and she would have been the last person to claim any such status. Unfortunately Dando's sense of proportion was absent from the coverage of her own death by her own employers.

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Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999



BOOKS

The literary bunfight of the century

Malcolm Bradbury finds he's off the shelf of this

modern library — but that he's in very good company

t's a none-so-curious fact that whereas the great works of fiction from the first half of this century have acquired a firm place in the literary histories, been widely studied and placed in the chronicle of modern literature, those of the second half have not been set in much shape or order at all.

This is partly because they are considered as contemporary. Yet 50 years, in literary terms, is a long time. It's also partly because, where the literary endeavours of the first half-century have a certain aesthetic clarity, those of the second look much more fragmentary. All canons are in perpetual dispute. Still, if we consider who were the major writers of English-language fiction to the great cultural break of the Sec-ond World War, then a fairly clear front rank can be drawn up: say James. Conrad, Law-rence. Stein, Woolf. Joyce. Ford, Faulkner, Hemingway. Dos Passos, Waugh. Their great project would be the transformation of Victorian fiction, with its "loose baggy monsters", into a fiction of modernism and modernity. We are talking, in short, about an age.

The postwar period has not yet taken shape as an "age". It has seen a new set of revolutions in modern English-language fiction, not least beTHE MODERN LIBRARY **Ed. Carmen Callil** and Colm Tóibín

Picador, £12.99



cause of the great irruption of American and other literatures. It contains its fair share of major talents. Yet the reputations are still disputed and its aesthetic developments don't look clear. Ten years back the term "Post-Modernism" served to suggest an artistic direction, taking us from the fiction of Beckett and Nabokov to that of Pynchon and Barth. But it has dissolved into a debate over vaguer matters: gender revision, post-colonialism, a transformation less of art forms than of subject matters and cultural origins.

That makes shaping a canon more difficult. We do it of course: and at no time more than when a century and millennium is turning. The Callil-Toibin Modern Library is one way of going about this. A user-friendly book, it partly acts as a listing of listings - giving us, for instance, accounts of past winners of the many prizes that nowadays go towards making literary reputations (the Booker, the Whitbread, the CNA, the Commonwealth. etc.) much as publication in avant garde magazines once aided the reputation of the

Listings (prizes, guides, cul-ture supplements and so on) are now the way most artistic information is transacted. As with contemporary literary criticism itself, they are more concerned with pluralism and cultural eclecticism than standards of judgment. This book is not concerned with critical solemnities: in places it shows a dislike for academic styles in judgment. Enthusiasm, we're told, is its driving force; the books are chosen for readers "of every age and taste": "its purpose is to celebrate the writers we have loved best, and to proselytise on behalf of their novels: sources of entertainment and enjoyment as satifying as any Hollywood movie, football match ...

The editors' listings are called passionate, idiosyncratic; they remind us they're neither English nor American

(Callil is Australian, Tóibín Irish). Thus they have good reason for taking an eclectic. cosmopolitan view of modern fiction. As they rightly say, some of the most important fictional writing now comes from anglophone writing else-where, from Australian and

Canadian to Indian, African

and Caribbean. They express

justified impatience at the

poor availability of many of

these works, though the ne-

glect has significantly if selec-

tively diminished lately.

This provides the most refreshing side of the book, inter-esting entries you didn't expect to see: Bapsi Sidhwa, Kushwant Singh, Oscar Hijuelos. Scots. Irish (but not Welsh). Australasian, Canadian (but not South African) writing gets high rates of entry. So do genre writers: P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, Patricia Highsmith. John le Carré and Stephen King. So why not Ian

I'm glad to see a number of books that matter to me: Wil-

liam Gaddis's The Recognitions, William H. Gass's volume In the Heart of the Heart of the Country, B. S. Johnson's novel-in-a-box The Unfortunates, Wilson Harris's Heartland. There are some works of real triviality and the onepage-per-book entries vary greatly in quality. Some are deft in judgment: others are no more than publishers' blurbs, and many titles prove "electrifying" or "engrossing".

As an absentee myself, I am naturally interested in the sig-

nificant absentees. Tolkien is directly excluded (and some may indeed prefer Stephen King). But it seems odd to be without one of the finest novels published here in the period, John Fowles's The French Lieutenant's Woman. Peter Ackroyd, John Berger, Lawrence Durrell, Vikram Seth and Angus Wilson fail to make it. So do Paul Auster, John Barth, Richard Brautigan, Robert Coover, John Hawkes, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gore Vidal and Richard Wright

The book is provocative and interesting. Its best use is to start an argument about an era that, at least in calendar terms, is closing (though since it uses passionate liking as the criterion it's hard to argue over terms). As it turns out, it has been a major period for anglophone fiction, and the novel itself has survived most of the disasters said to be awaiting it. Now it finishes the century in good shape. This book's great use it that this is

On the crest of a wave

Serbia in the grip of a deadly myth

perversion of objective reality. The West is determined to see through these operations against the dictator Milosevic; yet Nato still ducks the issue of pre-settlement ground forces. the majority of Kosovans are being driven out, not massacred, and the presence of opposition leaders in Milosevic's Government suggests he is at worst an evil autocrat.

But these pale compared to the wilful unreality of the Serbs: the Kosovans are being driven out by the KLA and Nato; the pictures of refugees are faked: the Serbs are acting in self-defence. Most depressingly of all, even the most liberal Serbian voices seem to be without a word in defence of the simple humanity of the people victimised in their name. How can they be so obtuse?

Noel Malcolm has already dissected the Kosovo myth. Anzulovic's target is its overarching myth, "Heavenly Serbia" - the notion of the Serbs' preference for moral purity over military victory - and how it has led to genocide in the 1990s. Thomas provides a straightforward analysis of how Slobodan Milosevic came to, and maintained, power. Taken together, Heavenly Serbia and Serbia under Milosevic go a long way to explaining the apparent unreality of the voices of even moderate Serbs.

It is hard not to think that Serbia is stuck in some kind of cultural, historical and political adolescence. "Heavenly

MAGNUS MILLS, bus-

SERBIA UNDER MILOSEVIC **By Robert Thomas** C. Hurst & Co., £14.95 ISBN 1850653674

HEAVENLY SERBIA By Branimir Anzulovic C. Hurst & Co., £25 ISBN 1850653429

Serbia" is always right, particularly when outsiders indicate otherwise, and never more so than in cataclysmic defeat. Though the myth was useful in explaining Serbia's partly consensual Ottoman occupation, its application to 1990s Europe smacks of pathological self-indulgence. Thomas argues convincingly for Serbia's lack of political development. Political discourse has failed to move on from symbols to policies, and Milosevic has shanghaied the symbols. The largely urban "Happening of the Čitizens" in the winter of 1996-97 seemed to show a growing political maturity. But so strong is the hold of the symbolic, and Milosevic's grip over the media and the rural population, that he could launch the crackdown in Kosovo in February 1998 simply to strengthen his position in Belgrade's post-

election deadlock. Is there anyone who can lead the country to maturity? Rarely can a people have been so ill-served by its elites. Its intellectuals were instrumental



Control in his sights: Milosovic exploits his grip on the media and the rural population

in supplanting communism with an unpleasant nationalist credo. Its literati churn out Nietzschean paeans to violence (Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, is the author of a work called Knife). building on oral tradition and the 19th-century Montenegrin Prince-Bishop Njegos's hymn to ethnic deansing. The Mountain Wreath. Its political opposition has yet to move beyond squabbles over whether Dayton is a betrayal of Greater Serbia; of its leaders only Zoran Djindjic, president of the Democratic Party, emerges from the shenanigans of the

1990s with any credit. The difficulty is that the myths and symbols have a near-universal hold over Serbs, and Nato has acted at a time when the political discourse is too immature to resist their lure. Neither work is perfect; Anzulovic has a dire chapter on the implications of Western acceptance of the myth which repeats old canards, while Thomas's book reads like a dry textbook-inprogress. Yet both are essential for anyone who wants to know why the Serbs don't see things our way, and to work

LINKS

www.hrw.org: regularly updated site detailing human rights abuses in Kos the Serbian Ministry of Information

out how to deal with them.

Tolerance isn't as laid-back as all that

here can be few more eminent figures in the world of ideas than Leszek Kolakowski. Now in his 72nd year, Kolakowski has held distinguished positions in America. Britain and his naspeeches continue to play their part in shaping Western culture. Philosopher, historian, theologian, political scientist and literary critic, he exemplifies a type of intellectual already rare on the Continent. and almost non-existent in the English-speaking world. His most important book - the three-volume Main Currents of Manaism - effectively put an end to the intellectual pretensions of Marx and his followers, while, in his imagina-tive studies of the religious worldview. Kolakowski has made an exemplary attempt to overturn the cynical materialism of modern philosophy.

Freedom, Fame, Lving and Betraval is a collection of short and lucid essays. Abstract thoughts about freedom, God and human nature are interwoven with concrete observations about the trials of modern life; and the author's humane and tolerant worldview is tested against the harsher human realities. There are no footnotes; the great philosophers are rarely mentioned, and modern scholarship is ignored. But the reader feels that he is in the presence of a deeply serious and learned thinker who has the rare gift of speaking simply about complex things. At their best the essays are little gems of applied philosophy; even when their light is dimmed by hesitation, they are both useful to the general

ROGER SCRUTON

FREEDOM, FAME, LYING AND BETRAYAL By Leszek Kolakowski ISBN 0 14 028044 8



Kolakowski's experience of communism has left him with a deep revulsion towards that evil creed. But his philosophy is not defined by this revulsion: on the contrary, it is a search for some positive alternative. The result is a synthesis of Roman Catholic theology with a liberal-humanist morality. Whether this reconciliation of opposites is possible may be doubted; but Kolakowski is determined to make the attempt. It is, he implies,

the best that we can hope for. Catholics are often accused of intolerance. But as Kolakowski points out, tolerance is not merely compatible with strong beliefs; it actually requires them. To tolerate something you must also disap-prove of it: otherwise what looks like toleration is merely indifference. When gay activists accuse Catholics of "homophobia", they are trying to make disapproval into a crime. While pretending to attack intolerance, they are actually displaying it. Here is one point where the morality of liberal humanism has let us down. Kolakowski is surely right in this. In my experience the most intolerant people are liberals: people who can tolerate any belief whatsoever. provided it is not seriously held, and who therefore demonise everyone who really disagrees with them.

Kolakowski's essay on God

goes straight to the heart of modern doubts and soothes them with lapidary words. God is "that place to which Reason, the Imagination and the Heart are persistently drawn". He is the goal of our thinking and desiring, and without Him we cannot realise our potential. That there is Good in the world counts, for Kolakowski, far more in favour of God's existence than Evil counts against it. And he implies that the chaos and violence of our times is a direct result of our loss of faith. He does not exculpate the Church for its experiments in violence: but he points to the virtue of an institution that can publicly confess to its faults.

ere and there Kolakowski misses an intellectual opportunity: in the essay on travel he sees this modern vice as a healthy expression of curiosity, rather than as what it is, a self-centred determination to be other; while in his account of violence he makes no mention of the concept of "structural violence" with which sociologists wage war on the institutions of social control. Nevertheless, the essays offer a sustained adventure of ideas, and the moral sense is

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-- · VIEW

All offendate of Section 20 miles

succeeding book. GABRIEL JOSIPOVICI

driving Booker shortlistee. fears no comparision. The author of The Restraint of Beasts has a new book coming from Flamingo in September, All Quiet on the Orient Express publishers usually provide their reps with notes on "competition" (Helen Dunmore up against Sebastian Faulks, for instance) - so who is Mills up against? George Crabbe. Thomas Hardy and Franz

Kafka, those wild 'n' crazy guys . . . ■ PICK a genius, any genius. Over £100,000 is to be handed out to unknown authors. The Arts Council of England is giving awards of £7,000 to 15 writ-

ers with "work in progress" -



and the judges had no idea who they were. Marina Warner, Michèle Roberts and Don Paterson read through hundreds of anonymous works and picked the best. The winners will be lifted from obscurity on May 27: Ian McEwan presents the cheques at London's Imagination Gallery.

his books under the 2000 BC in time for

> reading to two 18-year-olds: Books give you a lovely balance between your own experience and the world's experience." Could anyone out it better?

■ books@the-times.co.uk

■ BERNARD CORNWELL has always spread his talents, giving his books on Sharpe and the "Rebel" series to HarperCollins and his Arthurian trilogy to Penguin. Now he'll put all HarperCollins roof for a seven-figure deal, with the publication of Stonehenge:

Christmas. ■ OVERHEARD in a pub from a man recommending

Poet going somewhere, despite himself of bin-liners and suitrase (our 1961 cardboard family ONCE we asked too much of 'Revelation'l.

our poets: they had to be prophets and lawgivers at once. Then we asked too little: they had to be as much like us as possible, make poems that were indistinguishable from drab prose. Now, with our best poets, a balance has been struck, the lessons of both modes internalised. Michael Hofmann in Approximately Nowhere (Faber, £7.99; ISBN 0 571 19524 5) is still half in love with poetry as description and enumeration:

the velvet curtains slowly turning to dust on the woodwormed rail.

the Olympia Traveller I lugged around Mexico and

two pairs of boots The trouble with this is that it tries to suggest that attention to detail is attentiveness to the world. It also, in a very English way, tries to suggest that cold description hides deep feeling, as in the opening poem, Tea for my Father, which ends:

He likes it very strong, with in mugs, and sweetens it himself. He puts it on the window-sill in front of his table, and lets it go cold. Later on, I come and throw it out.

reader and challenging to the

academic philosopher.

Interestingly, that poem is dated 1979. Gert Hofmann died in 1993, and the first part of the book consists of poems in his memory. The coy selfconsciousness of lines like "Later on, I come and throw it out" have gone. In their place is a new attentiveness, not to detail but to the immense complexity and confusion of life:

The new south east cemetery ten stops by underground then bus zigzagging through the suburbs

The lack of punctuation makes palpable the sense of how death always escapes us. The poet accepts that and builds it into his poem. Epithanaton, the masterpiece of the

collection, is still happy to enumerate ('Sprays of pluperfect flowers at your head,/ the swanky brass tag at your feet"), but is open to people and situations as well: A custodian (one of your

characters,
characters,
morbid and fussy; and
phlegmatic) took out the
alarmingly long screws
from the coffin, as though
someone would try very hard
to get out or — you would have
said — in

painful as a passage in Beckett. And that combination is to be found throughout the volume in the fine Kleist in Paris, in the pains of adultery and betrayal. Michael Hofmann is one of

This is as funny, rich and

our finest translators. He moves with ease between German, English and American cultures and idioms. Less extreme than his father, more at ease in the world, but with bis father's compassion for the broken and defeated be grows in stature with each

BOOKS

God wouldn't believe in Dawkins, either

Is science 'the truth' or merely a system of belief?

A history of its institutions begs the question

n Samuel Johnson's great dic-tionary the first definition of "science" is simply "knowl-go"; the history of how it has decayed into a paranoid and destruc-tive system of specialised applications is the history which this vol-

ume attempts to trace. It charts the

course by which what was once the

"servant of nature", to employ Fran-cis Bacon's phrase, became the usurper and maligner of nature.
It must be noted at once that contemporary science is not an all-encompassing reality. It is a system of beliefs competing with other systems. It is an enterprise in time and is, in other words, an activity which changes direction or shape and sometimes even goes into reverse. One of the strengths of this volume, in fact, is the extent to which it illuminates how science alters accord-

ing to the country or culture in which it is practised. Certain cities encourage certain types of scientific methodology;

throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, London and Paris were engaged in internecine warfare for pre-eminence in experimental matters with London encourag-ing pragmatic applications. And the authors of this book suggest that the 19th-century invention of the "campus" and the "graduate school" in the United States created a suitably enclosed and hierarchi-

cal environment for research. In fact science has for most of its existence depended crucially upon institutions, generally male-domi-nated, and thus has become an aspect of patriarchal society. The culture of learned societies was co-opted by the State and became that of "official institutions" which supported "the forces of rational enlightenment, progress and modernisation".

Measurement itself becomes coopted as a State activity - "The State established measures of assets, animate and inanimate", according to the authors of this book, "better to control them" - and thus the concept of precision was directly related to acquisitiveness and power. The authors once more sug-gest that "measurement signalled industry and improvement". The introduction of uniform clock time, with the use of mechanical clocks, regimented life in ways unknown to any previous generation.

There are other very interesting

chapters in this almost encyclopaedic survey. The connection between science and Protestantism, for example, is firmly made. It is true that the founders of the Royal Society, including Sir Isaac Newton. were practising alchemists and as-trologers — and it is also true that this aspect of early experimental science has remained obscured in most histories of the subject. But the history of science in the last decades of the 17th, and the early decades of the 18th century is wholly implicated in the Protestant ethic.



One great intellectual historian has suggested that "Puritanism, and ascetic Protestantism generally ... played no small part in arousing a sustained interest in science". The rejection of scholastic authority, the sustained examination of God and nature beyond the corrupting interpretation of priests, the faith in human perfectibility - all

blossomed in a consuming rever-ence for science and technology. In similar fashion individual "cabinets of curiosities" became collections, which then turned into state-funded museums where the taxonomy of knowledge was displayed; the temples of the 19th century, "monumental and imposing", which evoked "connotations of dignitive architecture, and the conditions are conditional architecture. nity, antiquity and permanence", when in fact they were organised upon distorted and temporary misinterpretations of the world.

In this context it is interesting to note that in the 1870s one or two brave souls dared to question the truth and purpose of Darwinism that, in the words of one opponent, was quackery designed "to refer all effects to the same cause" - before being silenced by the scientific establishment.

The social order and the scientific system have become so clearly implicated with each other that they cannot now be separated. There is no such thing as "pure" science, only that which has become the "servant" of the State rather than of

There is a very interesting chap-ter here on the relationship be-

tween science and slaughter. It pos es the question, "Why should warri-ors have a professional interest in abstract knowledge?" to which the only possible answer is that ab-stract knowledge is an instrument of power and of oppression. Abstract knowledge has no perpetrators and no victims; it represents a supposedly impersonal force which can effortlessly master the world. The authors note how physicians conduct a "war" against disease while bomber pilots master the guidance of their missiles with "surgical precision". The principal med-ical officer in the United States is known as the "surgeon-general".

This is in certain respects not an easy book to read; the level of cliché is high. Writers thunder, sands shift, struggles are deadly and tomes are unwieldy. But if ever there was an occasion to divorce style from content, Servants of Nature represents it. It is a challenging, and necessary, book.

SERVANTS OF NATURE By Lewis Pyenson & Susan Sheets-Pyenson HarperCollins, £24.99 ISBN 0 00 223852 X

On the crest of a wave

DANCING NAKED IN THE MIND FIELD By Kary Mullis Bloomsbury, £12.99 ISBN 0 7475 4376 3

A constant

THE biochemist Kary Mullis won the 1993 Nobel Prize for-PCR (polymerase chain-reac-tion) which gave new meaning to DNA. Thereafter known as the Surfer Scientist, he has been high on a wave ever since. Now he gives us his Joe Schmoe attitude on life, love. alien encounters and the ruthless careerism of the scientific establishment. His view is that the bastards are out to get va. For all the California Weird, Krazy Kary knows a thing or two.

Love lines

ARTHUR RIMBAUD By Benjamin Ivry Outlines, £6.99 ISBN 1 899791 71 X

WE are mostly adjusted now to the significance of a poet's sexuality in any assessment of his work, though there is an argument against categorisation of gays in a literary ghetto. lvry's short biography is dedi-cated to Rimbaud as an "exceptional being dedicated somatically and psychically to homosexuality" and deals fully with Rimbaud's violent, passionate affair with Verlaine. The muse of lyric poetry doesn't discriminate against poets - only critics and readers do that. Ivry is on the side of Erato.

No nonsense

MIND, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY By John Searle Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12,99 ISBN 0 297 64300 2

SEARLE'S subtitle, "Philoso-

phy in the Real World", is a dunking clue to his belief in external realism and Enlightenment idealism. His admits that his distaste for Post-Modernism is unfashionable, but at least he is confident of the material existence of the ground on which he sturdily plants his feet. He's a real bruiser for reality: in this short book, he punches his weight in defence of common sense against the effete, affected, arti-

All that jazz

ficial constructs of relativism.

A PORTRAIT OF **DUKE ELLINGTON** By Stuart Nicholson Sidgwick & Jackson, £20 ISBN 0 283 06338 6 THE current fashion for biography, exemplified by George Plimpton's recent biography of Truman Capote, as a cut and paste compilation of oral testimony from the subject himself, his friends, family and associates, and with minimal authorial linking narrative, is perpetuated here to immediate effect. Compiled from first hand sources, it takes jazz back to its roots, profiling The Duke, one of its polymathic greats, in this centennial year

IAIN FINLAYSON

of his birth. A terrific rap.

The moral is: there are no morals

Peter Preston wishes Christopher Hitchens would

forget about Bill and Sid and move on to other things

hristopher Hitchens is that cherishable rarity, a man of the Left who writes with all the barbed eloquence the Right has sought to make its own. His Vanity Fair essays often turn polemic into an art form. He has the historic swagger of the old English pamphleteers. But, alas, this is a rather sad little book.

Its ostensible purpose is to reveal William Jefferson Clinton as a compulsive fornicator, liar, bully, employer of scumbags, friend of mobsters and shameless political compromiser. Yes, quite: but what's new? Surely there's no market left for the standard Rees-Mogg thesis with added adjectives? What's new is the last five pages (out of 112) and they have almost nothing to do with Clinton and everything to do with the author's awful

predicament. A few weeks ago some of Washington's grandest politi-cal commentators put on a cabaret where they sang barbed songs about the great and not-so-good. Thus the President, sitting there in the audience, smiling, was 'Caught by the DNA" (to a Springsteen beat). Another song featured one "Christopher Snitchens".

The story behind the sneer is simple enough. Hitchens went to lunch with his "old friend" turned White House

NO ONE LEFT TO LIE TO By Christopher **Hitchens** Verso, £12 ISBN 1 85984 736 6



aide, Sidney Blumenthal. Sid told Chris that Monica was a compulsive "stalker" who the gallant Bill had fended off and Sid knew because Bill had told him personally. Much later, Sid was hauled before the Senate and asked whether the lies about stalking were White House ones. Oh no, he said. Oh yes they were, said his old "friend" Chris to the House Judiciary Committee, dishing the lunch table chat. Clinton walked away unscathed. Blumenthal stayed

stuck in a perjury mire. Here's the kind of judgment call that journalists have to make from time to time, an ethical dilemma which can punch you on the nose if you get it wrong. Was Chris wrong

to snitch on Sid? Perhaps. The source was a chum talking off the record. Any practical judgment at the time of the snitch was that it would make no difference: Clinton, lies or no lies, was already certain of acquittal. But these personal/ professional conundrums are the devil to deal with and you can make out a good case for testifying truly when called.

The trouble is that Christopher Hitchens doesn't make that case. He makes a six-egg omelette of a defence in which he is "taken hostage" Blumenthal's information and resolves at the last "that the pact a journalist makes is. finally, with the public. He lectures us on the "great, anni-hilating" tactics of Stalinism. He finds, equally, that "Clintonism poisons everything it touches. And here is what is so sad about this slim volume. It is a work of absurdly conflated self-justification. It tells you rather too much about the bleeding ego of the author and thus not much of interest about its supposed subject.

Bill Clinton, for Hitchens's purposes, has to be portrayed as one of history's great monsters. Monica has to be "a defenceless and vulnerable young woman". The supporting cast, from Vernon Jordan to Colin Powell, has to be uniformly repulsive. The poor have to be thrown into the gutter while the rich fawn on



It's enough to make anyone clutch his head in his hands: Clinton faces scandal yet again

the destroyer of the New Deal.
This is a Ben Jonson version
of Beltway life designed to
shed a kindlier light on our hero, who stood out against corrosive tyranny - and paid for his bravery by being laughed at in Washington

Time to move on. Clinton is bombing Belgrade (and that doesn't fit the thesis). Sid is no friend of Chris any longer and forgetfulness blooms again in Washington. Much, much better books await the Hitchens touch. There now, can we all calm down?

LINKS www.imposeinment.org: the grassroots "National Committee" that lobbled to impeach Clinton first time around. www.enoughberough.org: a site devoted to stopping "the witch hunt". www.tarpleyweb.com/monifan: describes itself as "The Monica

Pye's concerns continue to

gal's recent political history many themes and changes in tions as to how he acquired information about Arkenhout

But these are minor criti-

A rural idyll not mired in sentiment

dam Nicolson is both a refugee from the city and a columnist. It would be easy, therefore, to rush to judgment about this account of urban exile on a farm in the Sussex Weald. Mercifully, though, this book is not another exercise in metropolitan archness and angst. On the contrary, it is a delight: beautifully written, acutely observed and laced with self-mockery. After the failure of his first

marriage. Nicolson was on his uppers, psychologically as well as financially — a col-lapse of self-esteem which he recounts with no trace of false sentiment. His epiphany came after a late night trudge through London which was aborted when a gang of teenagers threw bleach in his eyes and mugged him. Supported by the saint-like Sarah, the woman for whom he had left his wife, he began his search for a Postmodern Arcadia and ended up falling for Perch Hill Farm: a dreary house, some as-bestos buildings and 90 acres of unpromising farmland on the edge of the Sussex Weald. So far, so predictable. What makes this particular love affair with rural England unusual is Nicolson's ability to

interweave mud-spattered an-

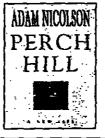
ecdote with poetic observation.

So he rages against a neigh-

bour who pours tarmac on an

DIMBLEBY

PERCH HILL By Adam Nicolson Robinson ISBN 1 84119 054 3



ancient cart-track to protect a voluptuous BMW, but he is touched by a meeting of farmers trying to save a local market and who inhabit "faces in which the wind had broken

He also has a fine sense of the absurd. Eager for freerange eggs, he buys the birds and builds a palace of a hencoop, but its inhabitants soon fall from grace as the author notices that the eye of a chicken is "about as warm and responsive as a 100-watt bulb". And when his ewes break through a fence, they not only contrive to vandalise a car but

the veins"



Nicolson sees the countryside's romance without romanticising it. Photo from Images

he has to fork out £3,000 in

At his best, Nicolson is a chronicler in the class of Richard Jefferies or John Stewart Collis. Like them, he describes the land and the people who work on it with precision and insight. And, like them, he wears his learning lightly. As

an environmentalist who knows that "an oak tree 60 foot high may drink 15,000 gallons of water a day", he instinctively nurtures the concept of "sustainability" but approaches its meaning without once using the term or belabouring the bliss, he appears to inhabit a world where the human spirit point. Nor, incidentally, does

he pontificate about the rape to which the landscape of southern England has been subjected, though it clearly dis-

mays him. Nicolson is not ashamed to wear his heart on his sleeve. One hot afternoon, when butterflies "cruised and flickered" across a field and a wood was "needled with birdsong", he lay in the grass and buried his nose in "the sun-warmed turf. worth the telling. breathed it in, smelled how good it was", knowing that he was right to have made the move. In moments of such

and nature are at one and where he is able to discover "the undersense, those deeper connections" to which he is

drawn again and again. As he and Sarah become ever more rooted in their areadian refuge, Nicolson reflects with characteristic self-deprecation that "the whole experience was a blunder into truth". It is a tale well told and a truth



Dying for an identity RUSSELL CELYN JONES

TAKING LIVES By Michael Pye hoenix House, £16.99 ISBN 1861591098



WHAT'S in a name? Big trouble when it's not your own. A young Dutchman witnesses the accidental death of a stranger in Florida and sees a perverse opportunity. He munilates the face, breaks the teeth and swaps watches with the dead man. Martin Arkenhout is now Seth Goodman, for a while at least. As his bogus identity is about to be rumbled in New York, he kills someone to assume another identity and moves on. The places he goes, the jobs he performs are described in a twilight prose to contrast with the graphic details of the murders. But everyone has secrets

that only surface after death. For the imposter this can be very compromising. Arkenhout's third victim is Professor Christopher Hart, an art historian who had stolen some valuable paintings. The Liber Principis, from a London museum. Archivist John Michael Costa just wants the pictures back, no further questions asked, and traces Arkenhout to Portugal. Simultaneously the Dutch police are closing in on Arkenhout after a chance sighting by his mother as he was travelling through Am-sterdam on his way to Portugal. But that is all I should reveal of this engaging plot.

In a way. Costa is in the same business as Arkenhout. museums being the mausoleums of misplaced identity. And from the moment Costa is revealed as the narrator his own identity problems become as central to the story as Arkenhout's. The prose, moreover, is striking. Take this one descrip tion of a fire: "A bush burst out in neon orange, then the red and orange licked their way to the edge of the road and the tall, dry grass stems went off like sparklers. The brambles ran like fuses into a hedge. The air shook so you could hear it, like a ship when the engines start turning."

broaden out to include Portuand classical archaeology. So character and point of view require sustained concentration from the reader, as does Costa's slightly awkward explanawhile dealing with him as Hart.

cisms. Precise and absorbing. Taking Lives is also surprisingly moving for a thriller.

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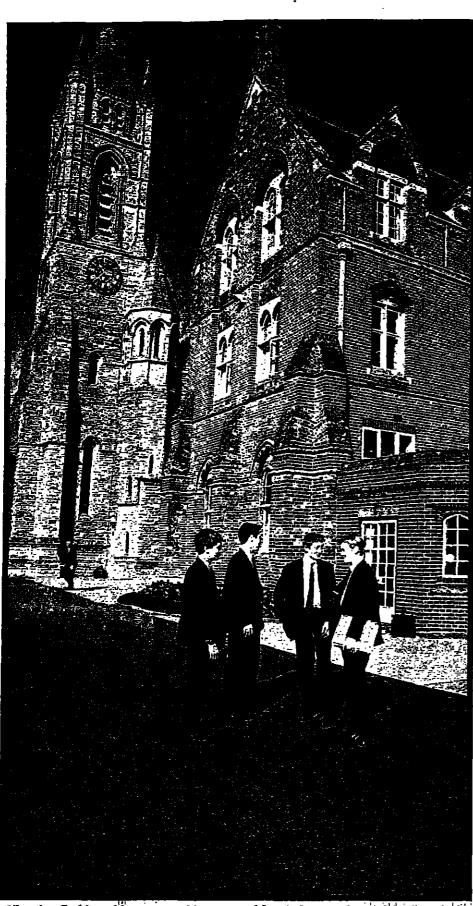
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From Victoria to the millennium



Victorian Gothic architecture provides a genteel façade for a modern academic outlook

hough dressed most-ly in the garb of Victo-rian Gothic architec-ture, St Edward's is not afraid to grasp the torch of progress. Tradition is respected, but the future is embraced and the school provides a systern of education that denies isolation yet retains the bonds that hold a school together. It acknowledges that academic and sporting success (at which

the school exceis) are not the be all and end all of education. The school aims to have a broad intake. A common entrance mark of 50 per cent. as an average of all the papers, is needed for entry — below the level required by many "metro-politan powerhouses" but it

fits St Edward's philosophy. We like a range of pupils and that includes a broad intellectual range as well as a wide range of talents, be they sport-ing, artistic, musical," says David Christie, the Warden (headmaster). "Children get a better education the more they mix with people of a wide range of abilities and background; this prepares them better for the future."

In The Times A-level school league table last year the school came 351st in the country. And with 15 Oxbridge places being awarded to pupils in 1998 (out of about 90), the children's intellects are not suffer-

ing.
Mr Christie's philosophy and enthusiasm stem from his the few public school headmasters with a background in the state sector, he originally taught at George Watson's in

Edinburgh.

He then trained teachers at
Moray House College, also in
Edinburgh, which moulded
his thoughts on schooling:
"The old style of teacher training was a difficult, frustrating task. Things have changed, thankfully." From there he went to the European School in Luxembourg, teaching the children of European civil servants. With its emphasis on languages and understanding other countries' cultures, it was a

Mr Christie was the head of economics at Winchester before joining St Edward's in 1988. He has just returned from a sabbatical in the US. where he lectured on the Scoton America in the 18th century, and his dynamic approach

no on behind

Something!

the bike shed.

For 136 years St Edward's School has played a unique part in Oxford life. Its new sports centre, to be shared with the public, is a groundbreaker. George Pendle presents a two-page report

to education has prompted Last year 31 scholarships and many changes at the school, from coeducation to the funding of the new sports complex.

"I want to provide more and more facilities for the pupils so that they can develop their different intelligences and their different skills working together with other people, communicating with other people. I want them to be fit for life." St Edward's primarily offers

boarding education, (there are three times as many boarders as day pupils) but even day pupils are at the school from 8.30am to 9pm. From September there will be ten houses — seven for boys, three for girls. The fees — £4,750 a term for boarders and £3,380 a term for day pupils — are not cheap. But there are many scholarships on offer for academic,

exhibitions were awarded. With a pupil-staff ratio of 8

to I and a staff turnover of less than 10 per cent a year, the school is neither stretched for resources nor understaffed. It has links with Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities; indeed several pupils are sons of dons. Many an Oxford don, says Mr Christie, has cycled over to the school to give talks.
The pupils also have the chance to use the university's famed Ashmolean and Science

Within the school, departments are equally up to speed with information technology. language classes spend at least one lesson a week in the computer room, on which £300.000 has been ern languages (one of the school's most successful areas) sees IT as a great benefit. He says: "Using computers allows students of different academic ability to work in the same classroom without holding each other up or going too quickly. Thus, it enables students to be challenged at their own rate. When it comes to grammar, using the computational state of the computation ers helps to sweeten the pill. It is a motivation for staff as well

t Edward's has certainly given greater priority to academic work in the past ten years than it had previously. "The world has changed; gone are the a public school guaranteed the opening of doors," says Mr Christie. "I'm glad that people

are taken on their merits. The world is more competitive and children must be more flexi-... ble. We have a good number of very able pupils; we also have pupils of average ability that is the environment in which people learn best. "I believe in breadth, in pre-

paring people for the future. I want them to have a good life. to feel nappy and confident about themselves, able to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves and to have fun with a wide range of .

people.
"At the same time you hope that can happen while pupils are having a worthwhile, interesting and fulfilling time at the school. Any school that looks only to the future and forgets that five years has to be spent within its walls cannot provide



lain, a High Church clergyman. founded four schools in Oxford as part of the "Oxford Movement", a religious movement advocating traditional forms of wor-

ship, George Pendle writes. Of the four schools founded, only St Edward's remains, having moved north from its original site in the city centre in 1873 to Summertown. where it straddles the Woodstock Road. The area was developed in the late 19th

St Edward's soon disposed of the OM's dogma, while retaining the magnificent Gothic architecture that had come with it. Almost in defiance of its past the school now has a woman chaplain and, most liberally of all, optional chapel attendance for pupils.

We do not make pupils attend an act of worship on Sundays," David Christie says. "We have people here of every faith and none." Although St Edward's has never been a large school (its



Old boys: dambuster Guy Gibson, novelist Kenneth Grahame and actor Lord Olivier

HISTORY pupils have in recent years numbered around 600), it has nevertheless produced an impressive list of old boys. Ken-

neth Grahame was one of the first pupils at the school. Its verdant setting left a great impression in his mind and was possibly the origin of his classic tale of riverbank life. Breaking out of the latecreated the school, he wrote Busters' raid in 1943. Sir



the escapist The Wind in the

served in the world wars. many giving their lives. The chapel is a shrine to their endeavour, the walls being engraved with their names. Two of St Edward's old boys gained recognition for the roles they played in the RAF during the Second World War. Wing Commander Guy Gibson became a hero for leading the famous Dam.

pil at St Edward's. He is remembered in the names of school buildings and was a friend to the school up until his death. Laurence Olivier was another old boy and played his first Shakespearean role at the school (Puck in

Dream), instigating a theatrical tradition that continues to this day. Other old boys include Jon Snow the television ton, the film music composer.

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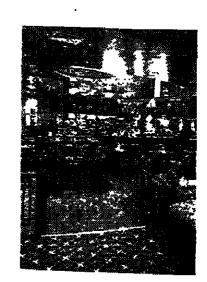
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St EDWAIVES SCHOOL

Slow to take the plunge, but girl power pays dividends

George Pendle reports on how the 'giant step' of going coeducational brought balance and growth to the boarding school

NE of the most significant changes undertaken by the school in recent times has been the implecomplete

Girls first arrived at St Edward's in 1983, but only into the sixth form. When David Christie arrived as Warden in 1988 he was aiready looking towards beginning coeducation throughout the school but it took nine years of consideration before they could be admined.

"Full integration of girls into the school was considered and turned down twice," he explains. "We didn't have enough female teachers and we didn't have enough experience in educating large numbers of girls."

The school had to adjust not only its pastoral care, but also to work out the logistics of sing all the new pupils. A lot of planning had to be done.

was taken in 1997. Of course the impact of that "giant step" has, as hoped, dissipated almost completely. St Edward's is now a co-ed school and you could not tell it had ever been anything else. Many of the pupils and teachers have almost forgotten what life was

like before the change. Nick McEwen, the joint head of school verifies that opinion: "It was strange at first seeing younger girls, but within days it seemed like it had always been this way. It's really made the school more interesting. You get a 14-year-old girl involved in a play with senior boys and she can hold her own completely.

There are two girls' houses Macnamara's and Oakthorpe - and this September one of the boys' houses (Corfe) will become a third girls' house, while the displaced boys will move into the new residential house. "I think the new house is a big statement

Edward's," says Mr Christie.

"We believe in boarding."

The introduction of girls has meant an equal shedding of places for boys but the school is at the moment growing towards its optimum size of 600 pupils. Every public school needs more pupils, but St Edward's seems to have avoided the trend of looking abroad for students.

There are, of course, pupils from overseas at St Edward's but the essential character of the school is very modern and very English. Going coeducational has not only helped increase intake, but it also chimes in with the school's philosophy of a complete educa-

"I've always been in favour of coeducation," says Mr Christie. "I think without it you are inhibiting the educational process. That's my own opinion and others might disagree. One benefit of independence is that schools can choose



Girls have been fully integrated into school life; the decision has meant that St Edward's can offer a more rounded education

Team effort clinches £6m sports centre

avid Christie, the Warden of St Edward's for the past 11 years, has a gleam in his eye. There may be other example of this but I don't know of any," he says with a smile.

St Edward's is about to

undertake a scheme unheard of in private schooling. In cooperation with the First Leisure group, work is about to begin on a £6 million sports centre in the school grounds that will be open to the public and the pupils.

Such an undertaking would seem to create a huge head-ache but not, it seems, for Mr Christie whose smile is un-dimmed. No wonder: the sports complex is to be built entirely at First Leisure's expense while the school needs to provide only the land, on lease. Clearly, both sides will benefit from the arrangement.

The new multipurpose health and fitness centre is set to be the envy of many larger establishments and include indoor tennis squash courts, a 25-metre swimming pool, a gymnasium and an aerobics studio.

In addition to access to some of the most up-to-date facilities, a large sports hall is being built for the exclusive use of the pupils. First Leisure has undertaken to maintain the entire centre, swimming pool and all. The school will have no maintenance costs.

uch a foray into the commercial market is bound to raise eye-brows, but Mr Christie has

few apprehensions. 'As a schoolmaster, not a businessman, one is always concerned that we are not getting the best deal, but our relations with First Leisure have been excellent. We are teachers, not leisure centre managers. We want to concentrate on what we are good at and leave the management to those skilled in that area."

The advantages of such a scheme are clear and look set to spur the interest of other schools - the centre has been gained without a penny being put on fees.
Through this scheme we've

enhanced our facilities enormously," Mr Christie says, but simultaneously there's nothing that's putting a financial barrier up to people coming to the school, either through raised borrowing or

In a unique deal, commerce is funding a complex that will be open to public and pupils

increasing the fees and that's what's so exciting. Our pupils' interests always come first."

Indeed, at a time when many private school pupils are becoming secondary con-siderations to the financial running of a school, it is a refreshing change to see business and teaching harmonised so readily and successfully as they have been here.

Although the construction of the centre has been ceded to First Leisure, there is no ques-tion of outsourcing of the school's sports teaching. St Edward's staff will continue to run physical education and games to the high standards that have made it a feared pres-

ence on sports pitches. The school's previous sports centre was also used by the public, who are expected to apply in some numbers for membership of the complex, set within the grounds in the affluent Summertown area of

North Oxford. Having members of the community using the new complex. also helps to strengthen the school's bond with the area. Even if we had the £6 million to build this centre, we would

still want the public to be using it," Mr Christie says.
Under the careful eye of David Bramble, the former bursar, it is hoped that the centre will be fully operational by

Mr Bramble initiated the project and, despite his retirement, will see it through to completion as project manager. He points out that there has been "a massive improveacademic facilities for pupils in recent years".

At the same time as the sports centre is being built a new boarding house is also being completed. Senior pupils' rooms will feature en suite facilities. "It's the way things are going," says Mr Christie, "Unless schemes are found like the one we are involved in, the costs will continue to esca-

Between May and February the new buildings will replace the present Douglas Bader sports centre but the name will main intact

The preservation of the memory of one of the school's greatest old boys is seen as important - the one concession: to the past in a project that is resolutely looking towards that

Pupils excel at rowing and rugby

SPORT

THERE is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply mess-ing about in boats." So said Kenneth Grahame, one of St Edward's most illustrious old boys, who surely must have picked up the habit as a pupil

The boating tradition con-tinues at St Edward's to this day, only now it is a little more than just messing about St Edward's prides itself on its sporting success and especially on its rowing. Winner of the schools' Head of the River race in both 1997 and 1998, St Edward's even set a new course record in its last

Strong competitors at the National Schools Regatta and Henley, some of the rowers go on to gain Blues in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. Girls' rowing is also taking off, and it is hoped that they will emulate the success of the boys' crews. The school, however, does offer rowing at all levels, not just for the top feams, and with a boathouse on the nearby Thames, it takes place in surroundings of which Toad and Mole would

surely have approved.
Yet rowing in no way eclips es the other sports on offer. The rugby team can boast an under-19 England international among its ranks. It won all but one of its games last sea-son. The school is always a strong contestant in the Ross-lyn Park Sevens competition. The girls' skiing team has also won many medals.

Almost every pupil takes part in a sporting activity of some kind there are three or four teams for each sport in each year group) and the 90 acres of sports fields at the school allows a lot to take place. A new six-hole golf course is now on site and the soon to be constructed leisure complex will offer an enviable amount of alternative sports

to take part in.

The advent of an all-weather pitch has led to a renaissance in hockey. Apart from that sailing athletics, and more are on offer.

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EASTBOURNE is angry at a new Thomson television commercial depicting the place as the kind of sleepy resort you avoid for the fleshpots of Europe, Tony Dawe writes.

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■ ST HELIER is the sunniest town in the British Isles - and that's official - so it could be the best place for the first Bank Holiday week of May.

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TENNIS, swimming, a gym and sauna are all on hand and the peace, tranquillity and donkeys of the New Forest on the doorstep of the Passford House Hotel, where Sunvil UK is offering Bank Holiday weekend breaks at special rates. Arrive tomorrow or Saturday and two nights' B&B costs £64.50. Details: 0181-232

■ DINGLE Peninsula can claim to be the wildest and most beautiful part of the West of Ireland and has well-located holiday cottages available at a discount from May 8. A week's self-catering with Irish Ferries Holidays costs £85. based on four sharing and with a Pembroke-Rosslare ferry crossing for car and passengers, Details: 08705 170000.

■NORTH York Moors is Britain's least appreciated National Park, but Inntravel is offering the chance to discover it on a four-night walking trip from May 14, which costs £315 with half-board in atmospheric inns. Details: 01653 628862.

VILLAS and apartments in converted farmhouses on wine and olive-growing estates throughout Tuscany are available all next month from Crystal Premier Italy. Deals offering two weeks for the price of one are running until May 15. Prices start at £329, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-390

■ MONET fans who missed the London exhibition of his paintings can see some of his work at the Orangerie Museum in Paris, which houses his largest pictures and will show a special collection of 60 paintings from May 6. Two nights' B&B, Eurostar travel and entry to the exhibition will cost from £163 with Time Off. Details: 0990 846363.

■ KEFALONIA for a week from Sunday for £139 and Skiathos for a week from Monday for £99, both self-catering and with flights from Manchester. are the best and most immediate offers to the Greek islands this week from Kosmar. Details: 0181-882 6999.

■ VENICE can be explored on a formight's Airtours holi-.

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day available from Co-op Travelcare for £219 and starting on Sunday. The offer includes half-board on the Venetian Riviera and flights from Gatwick. Details: 0541 500388.

■ SAVINGS of £200 on spring walking breaks in the Pays Basque are available with Pyrenées Adventures, cutting the cost of a week's peaks and valleys holiday from May 8 to £295 with full board. Travel is extra and return high-speed rail tickets from London cost £165. Details: 01433 621498.

■ HAMBURG'S biggest party, celebrating the 810th birthday of the city's famous harbour, takes place from May 7 to 9 and Lufthansa has special fares for those wanting to join the celebrations. Return flights from Heathrow cost £140 and Benz Travel can book them and accommodation. Details: 0171-462 0000.

■ ATHENS and its classical sites, plus the palaces, mosques and bazaars of Istanbul — with a five-night cruise in between — are all included in ten-night trips with Sover-eign, which start with flights from Heathrow on May 20 and 25. Prices now start from E900. Details: 08707 500500.



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FOR those who prefer to stay on dry land, Asean Explorer is offering two weeks at beach resorts in Hua Hin, Thailand, for the price of one. The deal runs for the next two months and costs from £684, including return scheduled flights. Details: 01481 823417.

■ EMIRATES is busy flying cricketers and their supporters to the World Cup in Britain in mid-May, so there is plenty of space in its home town of Dubai, where Tradewinds is offering six-night breaks at the four-star Oasis Beach Hotel. for £499. The holidays are available with flights from Gatwick on May 19 and 26. Details: 0870-751 0004.

■NAIROBI for £298 return tops the flight deals on offer this week and is available

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from Bridge The World for departures from Heathrow unit the end of June. For those who can escape with small children in the next three weeks. in the next three weeks, Boy Voyage is offering Orlando by E315 return from Garwick with two to 11-year-olds going fre subject to complicated condi-

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tions. Details: Bridge The World, 0171-911 0900, Bon Vo age, 0800-316 0194. The Nairobi offer could be used to join Dragoman's AL rican adventure starting from the Kenyan capital on May and 17. A five-week tour takes in many of East and Southern Africa's most splendid sites, in cluding the Ngorongoro Cra ter. Zanzibar and a floating fari on Lake Kariba. The price: of £1,035, plus a £300 kitty, it. cludes travel, accommodation

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oday The Times offers one lucky reader the chance to meet Nancy Cartwright, left, the actress behind the voice of Bart Simpson* at an exclusive private preview of The Art of

Bart at the Animation Art Gallery, Great Castle Street, London, W1 on Friday, May 14. The winner will also be given a signed, limited edition of Simpsons artwork, illustrated. Every reader can get a free Simpsons poster

titled Deep Thoughts of Homer Simpson worth £3.99 simply by attaching three differently numbered tokens to the voucher which will be published in The Times on Saturday and presenting it at any Virgini Megastore in the UK and Eire. With the voucher you can also buy T-shirts

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Salter returns to blaze trail for Bev's Babes

By Christopher Irvine

FROM West Hartlepool to Wembley. Six weeks ago, Matt Salter was embroiled in a relegation battle in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division when the call arrived from London Broncos. In an almost surreal transition back to rugby league the following Jayer was pitched into the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-

final with Castleford Tigers.

Three days away from the final, Salter, 22, is still pinching himself. The Broncos had not offered him a contract for this season, but still kept his registration. West Hartlepool showed an interest, so, three years after last playing union. Salter moved to the North East, resigned to the fact that his short league career was probably over.

When West Hartlepool encountered financial difficulpies and Salter was forced to take a ten per cent pay cut, the call from Dan Stains, the London coach, was neatly timed. "He told me they had a prop crisis with Darren Bradstreet and Grant Young injured, that they wanted me immediately and was I available? As West were in breach of contract, I didn't have much hesitation," he

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He came off the bench painst Castleford and has been busy since relearning all the habits that he had spent five months trying to forget.

One of six players in the Broncos team on Saturday born in England, only Salter has emerged from the club's development ranks, where a homegrown takeover is part of

the long-term planning.
With ballast required in the front row to shore up London's so-called "pygmy pack". Salter's elevation has been at the unfortunate expense of Dominic Peters, the Actonborn forward and an automatchoice this season. Like Salter, who joined the Broncos from Blackheath, Peters was playing union for London Irish. His memory of rugby league cup finals was of "a bloke called Martin Offiah always scoring and Wigan

always winning". Salter, too, liked what he saw of league from television. At first, it was a way of maintaining fitness over the summer, but, being a natural handler and runner, he postponed a scholarship at Cardiff Institute when selected for the 1996 Great Britain Academy tour of New Zealand.

Win or lose against Leeds Rhinos, it will be a poignant moment for Bev Risman. whose suggestion of an under-19 side for London was initially laughed out of the Rughy Football League. In 1996, with Dave Rotheram at the Broncos, he took seven scholarship youngsters from Brisbane and other young hopefuls, many of whom had



Only six weeks ago. Salter was involved in a union dogfight

responded to newspaper advertisements, and beat traditional sides, where boys ate and slept

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"We once beat the Wigan Academy side 30-10," Salter said. There was no way a bunch of players from union were going to do that, but with the Australian lads, we gained in confidence and knowledge."

Peters, 20, questioned his decision after being knocked unconscious in his first match. "It seemed far too tough for a young London kid, but as I relished physical confrontation, it's proved the best form of channelling aggression. It's nothing to do with northern stereotyping and potbellied props. You have to be at your peak because it's so fast," he

More of "Bev's Babes" Wayne Sykes, Ed Jennings James Brooks and Steffan Hughes - have graduated to the first-team squad. "Even with the Academy side today. you get people calling them a bunch of Aussies. Actually. they're all from London, except three from Oxford, Barrow and Risman said. Australian

Nevertheless. accents proliferate still at the Stoop Memorial Ground, including that of Stains, who has a vision of an all-London team. More than 20,000 children have been introduced to the game through the club's schools programme. Most of the 23 trainees come from within the M25 boundary and one. Bobby Wallis, from Feltham Community College, down the road from the Stoop, is the first boy from the South to be chosen for the Great Britain Under-16 squad, which tours Australia this summer.

Under Dave Evans, the Broncos development manager, teams now operate from under-13 level. "Wembley has obviously helped with the awareness factor," he said. "It's a question of harnessing the talent out there.

Bobby Wallis is a prime example of a kid who'd probably never heard of rugby league before, but turns out to have a natural aptitude for it. It's going to take ten years, but I reckon you'll then see a totally home-bred London team."



Whiteley dedicated hoping for settled weather over the May Bank Holiday to chasing breakers but the best of the nation's surfers will be praying for winds strong enough to make waves. Fistral beach, Newquay, is the venue for the English national champion-

Which also means a slow dilution of surfing's macho ships and, come rain or shine, Sarah Whiteley, the women's image. "It is changing and title-holder, will be wearing now there's even a surfing magazine for women." For her, the seas will feel Whiteley said. "I've always like a freezing plunge pool after the hot tub, for Whiteley thought it's a bit sad if you surf just to look cool. For me. has spent the past six months the joy is that it's so natural. It rollercoastering waves in sounds corny, but you can get exotic locations such as Bali. Australia and Hawaii. "I only

out there, forget everything and express yourself." got back this week so the cold Water sport was a natural choice for Whiteley, 21, for she was brought up in Saunton, on the North Devon coast, in a spectacular house called 'Breakers", where the front Just as well, for she will lawn rolls down to meet the have to repulse a strong tide "Although I was a tomboy and loved all sports at

of challengers. According to Karen Walton, secretary of school, it was easy to fall for the British Surfing Associasurfing," she said. "As soon as tion, there are approximately 100,000 surfers in Britain, of I got a surfboard that was it." Many people learn by which five per cent are joining a club; Whiteley women. "We are seeing a big nicked it up from the locals increase in the numbers of who were riding the waves women joining and taking almost on her doorstep. "I part in competitions," Walton watched other people closely said. "Female participation and read magazines," she has been doubling every year said. "The waves break very



slowly at Saunton, so it's an ideal place to learn. It's also a very friendly atmosphere, so the old boys and the local crew gave me lots of tips." At 16, she was encouraged by the owner of the local surf shop to enter her first competition.

"He said he'd pay my entry fee and as it was just around the corner in Woolacombe I figured I had nothing to lose," she said. "When I won I wanted more." Now, when she is home for the summer months, her favourite beach is a pebble's throw up the coast at Croyde, where hollow, powerful waves make for good competition training.

According to Whiteley, scoring points in front of judges involves a deal of luck. You're judged on three waves in a 20-minute heat," she said. "Basically, it's about making as many moves zigzagging, cutbacks, figures of eight - as you can at the critical point of the wave. Off the top of the wave you try and get as vertical as you can but it can be frustrating because you can paddle out there and always be in the wrong place when the wave arrives. In that sense, it's not a level playing field." Nor does it necessarily

follow that the most talented

s Whiteley more sors, she wemain Series," she "you n to the Wortampiip Tour. Thire 15 ent living bu have able to get lelf all mmer work inunton zient funds. I has o bail me outyear." aid, "but I (really to use my pa mon-en though it right nd me. Most st peak they're 25 too I've bit of time tchere."

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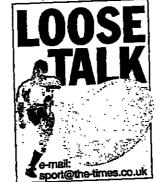
Reformers resigned to losing struggle

he special general meeting forced upon the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is set to go ahead on June 6, at Twickenham, even though the union has been advised by its lawyers that whatever is decided will not be binding under the constitution. The Reform Group engineered the vote of no confidence in the RFU hierarchy and wants the management board overthrown. They will not back down, even though they only just managed to scrape together 100 clubs to support

Given the legal position, one wonders why the ry on and why the RFU in the light of its legal advice - doesn't just scrap the whole thing, saving itself a possible £20,000? People mutter about democracy, but some believe that this is taking things too far.

Pole star The Army not only won the Willis Corroon Trophy at Twickenham on Saturday. but one of their supporters also took away another prized souvenir. He defied gravity and possible serious injury by removing the White Ensign from the Sepole atop the North Stand, hundreds of feet above ground. The brave





soul found his way on to a ladder at the back of the stand, shinned up and removed the colours. After the game, during which eight people streaked, four pubs in Twickenham were reported to have closed early because they could not cope with the demand and possible trouble

between rival supporters. Neath contempt

The Weish may have presented a united front during their win over England at Wembley, but according to Terry Holmes, club rugby in the Principality is riven with "petty jealousies". Holmes, whose eight-year tenure as coach at Cardiff ends shortly, said that one reason for his departure was the club's decision to throw in its lot with the Welsh Rugby Union. "I would have liked to see us as part of the Allied Dunbar [Premiership] - all Cardiff are going to get in Wales is the same old harred," Holmes said. "Neath have been sounding off even though we have the best record of any Welsh club in the European Cup. What have Neath ever done in Europe, other than

catch a plane? Big cheese You would scarcely credit Philippe Saint Andre's popularity around Gloucester. Is it merely coincidence that local supermarkets now stock the

award-winning St Andre cheese, described as "full-fat soft cheese", which may not necessarily be the most apposite description of the Frenchman who is director

of rugby at Kingsholm. Cornish pasting Spare a thought for Launceston. The Cornish side finished their 22-match

league season in South West I level on points with Penzance & Newlyn with a huge points differential of plus 793 - yet still could not squeeze into the Jewson National League. In the final round of games. Launceston beat Gloucester Old Boys 84-17, but Penzance trumped them by beating Torquay Athletic 131-5, giving them a better points advantage and so promotion.

Third way The world's third significant annual international competition starts on Saturday with the opening round of matches in the inaugural Epson Cup. It involves Canada, Japan, the United States. Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga and runs over the next ten weeks. It is backed by the International Rugby Board to the tune of £1.2 million over three years, as well as the support of the Japanese company.

MARK SOUSTER



Holmes: "petty jealousies"

to make further cuts

over the past five years."

her thickest wet suit.

came as a bit of a shock," she

said. "The difference in water

temperature takes your

breath away, but I'll be ready

by the weekend."

By Mark Souster

THE upheaval at Manchester Sale continued yesterday with David Rees and Phil Greening, the England internationals, having to contemplate the prospect of salary cuts and other players being put on the transfer list. Among them was Dion O'Cuinneagain, the Ireland flanker, who only recently signed a new two-year contract at Heywood Road.

O'Cuinneagain was sur-prised to find himself named among those available for transfer and is seeking clarification from the club about his future. Kevin Ellis and John Devereux are already available and have now been joined by four members of the development squad.

One player likely to move is Chris Yates, the centre, who is expected to join Gloucester.
Adrian Hadley, the director of rugby, said: "We have had an offer from Gloucester for Chris Yates but nothing has been finalised. I have been given the task of producing a competitive squad for next season within a budget of £1.5 million. We have no option other than to lose some players. Sale have been badly managed regarding contracts and salaries and unfortunately I have to pick up

Wasps, who appointed John Mitchell, the former Sale coach, as forwards coach on a temporary basis until the end of the season, are hoping to confirm his full-time appoint-

The International Rugby Board is considering contingency plans if Namibia cannot compete in the World Cup. The Namibian Government has suspended the Namibian Rugby Union for failing to fulfil an agreement to implement a quota of black players in the national side. If they are forced to withdraw, they are expected to be replaced by one of the losers from this weekend's repechage matches, involving Tonga, Uruguay, Morocco

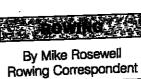
Sale forced | Searle enjoys benefit | of honing technique

GREG SEARLE defends his Wingfield Sculls title from Putney to Mortlake today, his first race since finishing fifth in the world championships last September. "I have had about a month's good train-ing. Searle, who has just returned from injury, said.

While training less severely. Searle has concentrated on technique, a decision that he feels has paid dividends. He said: "I have improved my flexibility and boat feel. Ultimately I should go faster. I haven't got a clue how fast I am, but it feels good."

He will find out today in a race with three younger opponents trying to take the Wingfield title, one of whom. Tom Gale, led last year before

LEGAL NOTICES



stopping at Chiswick Steps with tight forearms.
Giles Monnickendam,

lightweight at 73kg, took advantage of Searle's absence to take the Scullers Head title, while the other contender is Mark Hunter, from London, who has represented Great Britain at junior and under-23 level and who has won the apprentices' pennant at the Scullers Head a record five times. He will be eligible to compete for the coveted Dog-gett's Coat and Badge in 2001.

for casualpprech PAUL JOHNSON, the national champion, was beaten 29, 91, 39, 96, 96 by Simon

Johnson 148 pce

Frenz, of Germany, as Eng-rom Colin uillan land dropped a point in their defence of the European team championship yesterday. "I was casual." Johnson said. he England in's team "When the match started to began with slip. I couldn't stop Simon phanie Brind Tania playing his shots." ley dropping a dozen playing his shots."

matches, would have shown eden. afteSuzanne Johnson the way. Beachill rner had be Johnson exuded more perspiration hilberg. warming up for his third he men's finiks likely string rubber than he did beat include Std. who any Regret took the fourth over Swind The and Berrett took the fourth-1 over Swind. The

A quick study of Lee Beach- nts betweenem in ill and Marcus Berrett. play- posing of J. Akerval ing their first senior European i Maria Lark. of affective play- affective play- affective play- affective play- affective play-

string point from Stefan tland womeram also Oppolær 9-5, 9-5, 9-1.

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MOTOR LLYING

Dealline fealfor Subru's surival

By JER HART

SUBAthe team that carased almost solely on the ried CMcRae to his worldand's rally heritage. title in, could pull out o When McRae won the cham-rallyir November unlessonship in 1995, subsequent they one of the nextles of the Impreza model in roundhe world championritain went up 50 per cent. ship, une. Subaru willowever. Subaru have sufhave a year without ared in the past few months, win.

Sing McRae to Ford for a The deadline has purported £6 million. In additional management of the past few months, with the second few months and the second few months and the second few managements.

addedssure on Richaron, the team's long-term ciga-Burnseat Britain's No atte sponsor, 555, pulled out of drivero rejoined Subartillying to divert funds into this yea reported El milbrmula One.

lion (He came close to"In the short term, changes winnite Salari Rally tre always difficult." Richards Februout difficulties withid. "So. too. is sustaining the Piyres hampered his chanco Portugal and

"I dee this as a massiv proble Burns said. "I Subarnt to win again will he be me that does it and imext three rallies. the stare to be believed Even grip is not there in Corsie next two rallies i Arger and Greece are very r. just like the Safar andid very well there All is ist."

Alth Prodrive, the prep araticanisation for Sul aru thrun by David Rich Burns: "all is not lost" ards, ormer head of the

Benetormula One teambooess. We have been on top deny subaru are likely for most of the Nineties. We retire: rallying after alill be again, and soon. most ade of dominance "You hear these rumours all source Japan reveal thate time. If I was to point out the de is a fait accomplise length of our contracts and

"Su have failed the fact we're already design-renewertising contracting the 2001 car and that we beyon9," one said. "Alsore contracted to run the team the mement at Subarur the next three years, it's which pro motor-sportmpletely illogical. has ged. Lastly. the if Subaru does pull out, currepreza model will burns's next move is unclear.

discord within a year ofthough new teams such as so. Whu are not winning ugeot are entering rallying. tere are no top seats availa-

Pullut of rallying coulde. "My immediate future is cost S1 tens of millions with Subaru," Burns said. "1 contramination penalined the team to win and ties, lontinuing withouat's what I plan to do. But succepuld do_infinitelubaru wasn't the only team more ige to a reputationho wanted me for 1999."

RACING: FORMER CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP WINNER MAKES ALL TO WIN HEINEKEN GOLD CUP

Imperial Call returns refreshed

RACING CORRESPONDENT AT PUNCHESTOWN

IN THE punishing world of steeplechasing, old champions hardly ever come back, especially the physically challenged. Any who defy the odds to repeat the ascent are guaranteed a place in public affections and Imperial Call received the acciaim due to a returning hero after winning the Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown yesterday.

During the three years since Imperial Call triumphed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Ireland has seen a stream of potential chasing champions, keenly anticipated but unfulfilled. Two such pretenders, Florida Pearl and Dorans Pride, were among the opponents left scattered across the fields of Kildare yesterday by a performance of

heartwarming dynamism.
Imperial Call was the one horse in the race who had attained the peaks to which the others aspired, and he had even finished third to Teeton Mill in his most recent outing, the King George VI Chase at Christmas. Yet such have been his ailments and frustrations that he was allowed to go off at an unregarded 8-1. He neither knew nor cared and returned to a turnult that suggested the majority of a 25,000 crowd had enjoyed the bookmakers' generosity.

British interest in the £120,000 event lasted only as far_as the first fence, where Escartefigue over-jumped and fell. Ruby Walsh, Ireland's champion elect, had already poached a significant lead on Imperial Call and he was never to surrender it. Dorans Pride's challenge ended with a blunder at the fourth last and Florida Pearl, the odds-on favourite, had no excuses for a 14-length beating.

A woman called Hurley had made all the morning headlines; now it was the turn of her male namesake. Ray Hurley is just 23 and in only his second year of training near Cork. He inherited a horse widely believed to be in terminal decline and deserves great credit for his revival. "There's more life in this horse, he's proved that today," Hurley said. "He had a lung infection at Cheltenham. so we



Imperial Call caps an exhilarating display of front-running with a fine jump at the last in the Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown yesterday

missed the Gold Cup. It was disappointing to have taken him there for nothing but we wouldn't be

here today if he had run."

Michael Hourigan, trainer of
Dorans Pride, was philosophical. "He was beaten before his mistake and probably ran a bit flat. There was no hard-luck story, the winner deserved it." The sentiments were shared by Willie Mullins, who also reflected without regret that Florida Pearl may now cease to be the subject of a nation's dreams. "At least the star status has gone." he said. Punchestown was a joy in the

this game has no sense of timing and a chill shadow was cast on the day by the death of the leading novice hurdler, Joe Mac. Another of J.P. McManus's glittering team, Joe Mac had won easily at Aintree and started 7-4 favourite for the Stanley Cooker Champion Novice Hurdle, but he trailed in sixth and collapsed fatally soon after the line. Of two British-trained winners on

spring sunshine but the bleak side of

the day, the more emphatic belonged to Philip Hobbs and Bouchasson. who trounced an apparently competitive field for the Sean Barrett Bloodstock Handicap Chase by 15 lengths. Castle Mane, winner of the Foxhunters at Cheltenham, later completed the double in the Kevin McManus Champion Hunters Chase.

The British challenge gathers pace today, with runners in six of the seven races. Anzum, winner of the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham, takes on runner-up Le Coudray again while Katarino, trained by Nicky Henderson, defends his unbeaten four-year-old record against those who finished second and third to him at Cheltenham. Balla Sola and Afarad.

RESULTS

2.40 (2m 4/ holle) 1, NATIVE UPBANSHP (I P Treacy, 8-1); 2, Wither Or Which (I Wate 12-1); 3, Colonel Yeager (R Durwood, 52 ALSC RAN, 7-4 tay Joe Mac (8th), 11-2 Wing Garden (5th), 7 Site Leader (ou), 14-1 Nase Dara, Prominent Profile (4th), Samakaan, 20 to surs Mate, 50 Copper Supreme, 11 ran 51; 2 3-1, 11, 141, ALT Moore at Naas, Tole 511, 22,80, 23.30, 21.40. DF: £121.80. CST \$2.60, \$3.30, \$1.40. DF: \$121.80. \$104.52. Trio: \$54.80.

3.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, IMPERIAL CALL (R W. 8-1); 2, Florida Pearl (4-7 lav), 3, Do Pride (100-30), ALSO RAN, 6 Escartefig. 33 Opera Hat (4th), 5 ran. 14l, dist, dist, RH, ley at Bandon. Tote: £5.50; £1.70. £1.50. [

BIG RACES AT PUNCHESTOWN TODAY

3.15 IAWS CHAMPION FOUR-YEAR-OLD HURDLE (Grade I: 4-Y-0: £43,400: 2m) (9 runners)

3.50 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE (Grade I: £29.450: 2m) (7 runners)

BETTRIG: 13-8 Prometer, 7-2 Wenyard Kreght, 4-1 Cockney Lad. 7-1 Sydney Truckausend, 8-1 Pager Blee. 10-1 Amberteinin Hause, Society Brief.

1998: DIRECT ROUTE 7-11-9 P Carbary (11-10 tar) J h Jatasson (SB) 5 ran

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

4.25 BALLYMORE PROPERTIES CHAMPION STAYERS HURDLE (Grade I: £31,000: 3m) (6 runners)

1 2/0521 AMZUM 42 (D.6.5) (Did Foresters Prints) D Micholson (GB) 8-2 11UJ44, MISTER MOROSE 19 (G.S.) (Mrs. J Morod) N 7-Davies (GB) 9-3 SP2105 PHARAMEAN 21 (D.F.6.5) (Estudies LLD) PHODRA (GB) 9-1 4 111112 LE COUDRAY 42 (BF.6.5) (J P Michianus) A P O'Brien 5-1-5 13-617 KIAYYAWAW 20 (F.6.5) (J P Michianus) C Rocine 7-1-11-5 307-15 MARIELD 152 (D.6.5) (Mr & Mrs. W Williams) Mrs. M Revetay BETTING: 11-10 La Condray, 4-3 Arcorn, 11-2 Marello, 7-1 Pharanear, 8-1 Meter Morces, Mayrax 1998: DEPRYMOYLE 9-12-0 A P McCoy (10-1) M Countenant & Jan

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Wia Lotus Elise.

and activate a U or EasyLife pre-pay phone and could be driving away in a Lotus Elise. As part of r Millionth pre-pay Customer Promotion, Cellnet giving away a car and there's also hi-tech runnerrizes from Philips up for grabs. But you'll have be quick. This offer is only available between April and 3rd May. Don't miss your chance to be nner, get down to your local Cellnet retailer now.

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By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

It can be dangerous to double a One No-Trump opening without a good opening lead, particularly facing a passed partner. But, in the cut and thrust of the modern tournament world, it may be unnecessary to take such a risk - after all,

Dealer East	Nor	th-South game	Pairs
ቀ A Q 8 ማ K J 7 ማ K J 10 4 J 104	3)	◆ J73 ♥ A82 ♦ 962 ♣ 9862 W E S ♠ K105 ♥ Q9 ♦ 853 ♣ AK753	♣ 9842 ♥ 10654 ♦ AQ74 ♣ Q
<u>s</u> _	W	N	<u>E</u> _
-	_	-	Pass
1 NT · All Page	Pass	Pass	Double (1)

Contract: One No-Trump doubled, by South. Leed: jack of clubs

(I) East-West were using a convention whereby the double of a One No-Trump opening by a passed hand showed either both majors or both minors. Even so, it was an aggressive double by East who had clearly not turned up to pass all the

West, unsure which suits his partner held, chose a passive jack of clubs lead. Declarer cleared clubs but failed to unblock dummy's 9-8. West did not find the best defence now when he switched to a heart which declarer ran to his queen. He then crossed to the club in dummy and took the spade finesse. West won and continued with the king of hearts, creating a heart entry in the East hand Declarer won the ace of hearts in dummy but, with the clubs blocked, could do no better than play another spade, allowing the defence to cash two spades, two hearts, one club and three diamonds for two off and 500 points.

It is easy to be critical of East's bidding, but at favourable vulnerability it had lots of ways to gain. If partner had been weaker it might have allowed East-West to find a partscore in either major or diamonds. As it was, it allowed East-West to score a top despite mediocre defence. ☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in

Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ORCHIL a. The double tulip b. A red dye

c. A serrated dagger

PLICHTANKER a. The main anchor b. A Dutch attorney c. A two-litre goblet **POPVISIT**

a. A short visit b. A Russian judicial district c. A sugared almond

NOUTHETICAL a. Imaginary b. Warning

c. Opposing Answers on page 50



Мß

0-0

Ne1

Rb1

Nxc5

b3

Кh2

fxe5

Qf2 Ne2 Bf4

Rbe1

Bixe5 Nf4 Ne6 dxe6 Qxf5+ Rixe5 Rixe5 Rixe5

Rxa5

31 32 33

12 Nd3

g6 Bg7 0-0

Re8

Nb8

b6

Nc5

bxc5

Rf8 Kh7

Ng8 15

gxf5 Re8

N16 Rg8

Rae8

Øg7 Bxe6 Rxe6 Qg6 Qxf5 Rxe5 Rb8 Rd3

Rc3 Ne8

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess festival

The final event at the Hamp-stead Festival in mid-April was the second master group, won jointly by Brian Kelly and Simon Williams with 614/9. Today, as part of my ongoing coverage of this important addition to the English chess

calendar, I give a game by each of the winners. Final scores: Kelly and Williams 6½; Houska 6; Bjarnason 514: Knott, Mork and Richardson 5; Compton 3; Barlow 2; Phillippe 1/2.

White: Bertie Barlow Black: Simon Williams Hampstead 1999 French Defence

ජේ සිය්යි යය Ng/3 0-0 hЗ g4 Qb3 Qd1 a3 hug4 dxe5 Bb5+ Bb2 Re1

White: Brian Kelly Black: Alistair Compton Hampstead 1999

English Opening



☐ Raymond Keene wilk chess Monday to Friday Sport and in the Week section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Nikolenko -Ivanov, Moscow 1999. The white bishop is lined up usefully against the black queen on c7. What is the best

way to exploit this?



Barry Fen of the whip w which came is he cat on day

RACING: GODOLPHIN FIRMS 1,000 GUINEAS PLANS BUT DOUBTS SURROUND CALANDO AND MOTHER OF PEARL

Dettori pencils in ride on Pescara

STILL the Saginta 1,000 Guineas refuses to emerge from its murky gestation. Though Sunday's classic has already been shorn of several leading contenders, as late as yesterday ante-post punters tound the door squeezing uncomfortably against the shoe. It appeared to slam on supporters of Calando, while those who have made Mother Of Pearl as short as 10-1 will do well to get a run for their

money. Concrete plans remain a luxury, but at least the Godolphin team has acquired a measure of definition. Pescara, whose success in the fillies' trial at Nad al Sheba was a tribute to her progress in Dubal, is likely to be rewarded by the assistance of Frankie Denori. Such, at any rate, was the natural interpretation of support for her.

from 20-1 to 14-1 with Coral. Though Calando dropped out of the equation after the arrivals from the desert stretched their legs on Newmarket Heath yesterday morning. Richard Hills is expected to ride Fairy Queen. Godolphin's personnel also seems sorted for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas on Saturday: with Dettori on Island Sands,

Ascot

By CHRIS McGrath Easaar will be ridden by

Michael Roberts. Even Godolphin is not immune to the misfortune infecting so many three-year-old fillies, having been forced to scratch Etizauz from the 1,000 Guineas earlier in the week. While doctor's orders are not a factor with Mother Of Pearl, Peter Chapple-Hyam still rates her only "50-50" to come under those of the starter. "She is more of a staying filly and will come into her own over a mile and a half," the trainer said. "I'm more tempted to wait for the French or Irish Guineas or possibly go

for the Musidora at York." Chapple-Hyam remains more positive about Commander Collins, though there appears less conviction to the colt's tenure near the head of the 2,000 Guineas betting. Advising punters not to forget his other runner, Brancaster, the trainer might well find his upbeat approach open to misinterpretation.

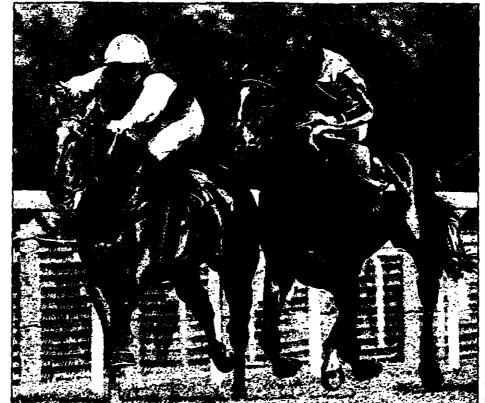
There's nothing to choose between them at home," he said. "They go to Newmarket with equal chances." These, no doubt, are the very last words

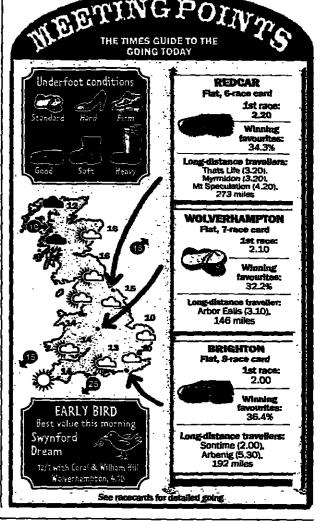
backers of Commander Collins wished to hear. Manton has still to produce

a winner this season whereas Henry Cecil, also facing a big weekend, could be emboldened by the listed-race success of Instituate at Ascot yester-day. Enrique contests 2,000 Guineas favouritism despite faltering in front in the Greenham Stakes, Wince staked a sufficient 1,000 Guineas claim in the Fred Darling Stakes for Hills to go 10-1 from 14-1 yesterday.

"They both went nicely this morning." Cecil said. "I'm delighted with them, and they both have a great chance of being in the first three. Wince is improving, while Enrique thought he'd done enough after being in front too soon. A lot of mine are needing a race, and they should come on."

Life is never dull for those who follow the fortunes of Celeric, the long-distance runner who needs to be ridden for a turn of foot. But Richard Quinn was equal to the heart-stopping challenge of restrain-ing him until well inside the last furlong of the Insulpak Sagaro Stakes. Celeric is now 8-1 with Coral to retrieve the Gold Cup he won in 1997.





Going good - good to soft in places

2.00 (5) 1, OPTIMATE (1 Sprake, 15-8 plan), 2, Bee Bight (M J kinare, 13-2); 3, Fest Blood (1 Culmin, 15-8 plan), ALSO RAN: 4-1 Great White (Sin), 16 Alife Lee (4th) 5 ran 4, 9, 3, 41 B Milman at Cultompton, Tote C3 00; £1.60, £2 60 DF, £8 10 CSF £12.68

D3 10 CSF £12 68
2.30 (1m) 1. INSINUATE (A Falkon, events
[av] 2. Sweet Emotion (G Center, 9-1), 3.
Classandra Go (M Roberts, 3-1) ALSO
RAW 6-1 Exiden (ani), 9 Jig (50), 25 Peach
Barley, 50 Hi Nicky (6th) 7 rain Hd, 124, 21,
34, 34 H Cecil at Newmarket Total: £2 10,
£1.40, £2.40 DF £3.30 CSF £10 61,
2.64 CM-46-th 1, CSF EMC (T Center, 6-1).

3.05 (2m 45yd) 1, CBLERIC (TCaim, 6-1), 2, Shaya (M Ferion, 20-1), 3, Canon Can (K Fallon, 13-2), ALSO RAN 4-1 tay Sport of Love (4th), 9-2 The Glow-Worm (6th), 13-2 Mawared, 7 Mandpour, Sanysan (6th), 14 REDCAR San Sebastran. 9 ran 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 16 J Duniop al Anmolel Tote. £6 80; £2 40. £5 (0, £2 80 DF. £80 30 CSF £102.23 2.20 The Wife 2.50 Susy Wells 3.20 Birchwood Sun

CS 10, C2 80 OF. C80 30 CSF C102.23
3.40 (7) 1. GREAT NEWS JA NICHOIS.
10-11. 2. GRE of Gold JA Mackay, 33-11: 3.
Therhea (1 Cunn, 10-1). 4, Family Man (F Cochrane, B-1) ALSO RAN: 7-1-lav Night of Gless (Sth). 7 pl-lav Pan-B. 8 Grangeville, 10 Sally Jack. 10 Showboat, 12 Al Machin.
16 Misser Rembo, 16 Wild Shy. 20 Vasan. 25 Consort. 25 The Downtown Fox. (6th). 33 Area.cass. 33 No Extras. 40 Torello 18 ran NR: Chevil, Just Nick. 9, 3, 16d, 11, 91. Bakting at Kingscher Tole, 2(1). 20, 22 0, 29 10, 12 70, 12 20. DF. 1289 50 CSF.
1292 69 Tireasi 13,175 00.

232 69 Tricasi C3,175 00.
4.16 (6) 1. SAMPOWER STAR (Dane ONail, 14-1), 2. Lionhaurted (1. Detion, 5-1), 3. Mitcham (T Curin, 5-2 (m) ALSO RAN: 11-2 Fanders, 15-2 Two Cubs, 8 Mizhar, 9 Mouzaan Rock, 10 Monteston Point (Shi), 20 Ace of Parkes (6h), Emms Peel (4h), 10 ran 31, 4, 114, 114 R Harnon at East Evenleigh, Toler 224 80; C4 00, E1-50, C1 30 DF: 239 00, CSF: 276 59 ET 30 DAY E39 (0.0 CSA: EXPS (0.0 K) (3.0 K) (4.40 L) (10.1 L) DUCK ROUW (5.8 Senders, 9-2), 2. Right, Wing (T. Curin, 5-2 kay), 3. Sugartiou (M. J. Kinane, 9-2), ALSO RAN-7-2 Trans island (Siri), 4 Risque Laby (4th), 5 ran 1-1, rs. 91, sh. bd. J. Toller at Newmarks Tota E5.80, E2.50, E1.80 DF £9 70, CSF, £13.74

5.15 (Im) 1. SCENE (5 Sanders, 20-1), 2. Harmony Helf (G Carler, 40-1), 3, Autumn Cover (T Cuen., 16-1), 4. Arthul Dane (F Norlon, 33-1), ALSO RAN; 7-1 (av Card'oro. Norion, 33-1). ALSO RÂN: 7-1 fav Catóroro.
10 Indium. Internal Altair. Zurs., 14
Broughtons Turmon! Jibereen, Yeasi (Siri).
16 Marske Machine, Super Monarch (Biri).
20 Indian Blaze, Lycen, Seifan, Sisom Cry.
25 King of Tures, Roger Ross, Topton, 33
Alfahaal, Elba Magic. Kennet, Mr Majica,
Saley Ana, 50 Barren Lands, Rhual, Tarski,
66 Stopwatch. 29 ran. NR. Pas. de.
Mernores Hd. ml., Hl. hd. 11 J. Grover al.
Worksop. Tote. 128 50: 55.60, £10.40,
£5.60, £7.20 DF £337 60 CSF: £604 75
Tricast £11,313 22
Jackpot not won (pool of £54,617.40 Jackpot: not won (pool of £54,617.40 carried torward to Redcar Inday).
Placepot: £171.50 Quadpot: £32.80

Pontefract

Going: good to soft 2.45 (5) 1, Pipadesh (f. Carley, 15-8 fev). 2. Softizz 112-1). 3, London Dancer (2-1), 8 ran Hd, nt. T Easterly Toler £2 20, £1 10, £2.90. £1 10, DF: £16 60, CSF £21 59 2:90. \$1.10. DF: £16.50. CSF £21.59
3:15 tim 4f 8ych 1, Ameera (S. Drowne, 5-1), 2. Diamond Lad (12-1), 3, Gold Honor (11-4 fav), 9 ran 11-4, 11-4 M Chennon Tole £4 80; £150, £4.00. £1.30. DF: £221.50
CSF: £87.98
3:50 (2m 51 122ych 1, Immed (R Mullen, 14-1), 2, Chamming Adminia (16-1), 3, Danegoid (6-1) Campaign (5hl) 9-2 fav; 14-4 ran 11-4, 17 K Comenford Tole £42.80, £870, £4.90, £2.40. DF: £353.90. CSF £199.90 Thosas £1.370.60. C198 90 The ast 1,370 67
4.20 (6h) 1, Further Outbook (K Darley, 9-1), 2, Kingdom Ruby (14-1), 3, Pleading (10-1), 4, Agent Mulder (6-1 (1-lav), Cool Secret 6-1 (1-lav) 16 ran NR: Nihy Norman, Popen, 214, hd. C Nicholls, Tobe \$7.80, £2.90, £3.90, £3.90, £5.90, £5.90, £5.90 DF- £36.60 CSF £107.32. Tricest, £1,161 69
4.50 (1m 4yd) 1, Night Chanus (F Lynch, 10-1), 2, Probblesneaze (10-1), 3, Bachelors Pad (11-2), Mangarets Denoce 4-1 lav 19 rain 3/4, 11 B Robhwell, Tole £14.80, £3.90, £3.40, £2.60 DF- £53.90 CSF £103.35. 3-80, 2200 LP 13330 CSF 1103 36.

5.20 LIM 21 6yd) 1, Aspirash Dencer (R. Muten, 2-1 fav), 2, Typhoon Eight (20-1), 3, Shaffishayes, (13-2), 4, Legal sisse (10-1) 18 ran 24, 21 M Bell Tole 12-60, 11-20, 55.0, 11-50, 12-20 DF 157-30 CSF 55.0, 11-6ast 12-37 79 Quadpot: £88.60 Placepot: £95.20

Exeter

Going: soft 2.15 (2m 1/110)/d hdie) 1, Summer Flow-tr (Mr A Irvine, 7-2), 2, Ron's Round (100-30 lav), 3, May Sunsei (10-11, 4, Remember Star (12-1) 16 ran 111, 314 Miss Z Devison Toler 54 40, 51.20, 51.20, 52.90, 52.40 DF \$4.90 CSF, \$13.22, Timash \$58.48 24 t0 CSF, £13 22, 1mcast 256 48 2.50 (2m ři hole) 1, Kembord Tina (A Bates, 5-11; 2, Chooladstone (4-1), 3, The Hill Has Moved (3-4 fav) 13 ran NR You're Appodun 14, 161, J. Madies, Tole C7 30, £1 80, £1.50, £1.20 DF: £22,00 CSF £24 37. 3.25 (2m 7) 110yd chi 1, Defenditheresim U Frost, 5-2), 2, Glazasi King (16-1), 3, Joy For Lie (6-4 tow) 8 rao, NR Camers, Joy 3:4, 31 R Frost Total (2-50, 2-10), 22-30, 21 D DF 218 10 CSF, 233.79 Trotal 273-32 E73-22 4.00 (2m il 110) d.chi i, Just Jasmine (R Greens, 11-8 (sv.), 2. Kubreet (S-1), 3. Ambiesole (9-4), 5 ren, 61, 31 + 68-bop Tote: 92 60; 21, 10, 92, 30 DF 55 30 CSF 97, 69

27.09 4.30 (2m 3l 110yd nole) 1, Pot Black Uk (Mr P Flynn, 6-4 lay), 2, Dietant Storm (9-1) 3, Tonka (3-1) 5 ran 11, 111 P Hobbs Tote 52 70, 51, 10, 52 30, DF, 54 40, CSF 515 58 5.00 (2m 11 110yd hdle) 1, Sandoran (2 Azpuru, 11-4 p-lav); 2, Toponga (8-1) 3, Cerso (7-2) Barnana Walk (4th) 11-4 p-lav



6 Tan 71, 51 M HM Tota £3.80, £2.40, £3.10 DF: £17 70 CSF. £20 70 Tuesday's

ROB WRIGHT

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 ROSE'S TREASURE.

2.20 MIDDLETON TYAS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

407: 50) (17 runners)

WILL IVESON (Lord Bolton) P Hastam 8-12

3 COMMONNOOD 17 (Applicable Princescing (), 16 Somit-Ostrourie
O JAZOUES REPLY 24 (Bood Hand Resing Cluid J Barry 8-8
PHARACH'S HOUSE (P England) T Easterly 8-8
AFRICA (Harrompte Bioodstock Lul) T Barrion 8-7
LATE NISHT LADY (Jack () All Todas Partnership) P Hastam 8COOL JUDGE 14 (A Sentianno W Halpo 8-5
EJRO DANOY (W Saussy) IN Nicholas 8-5
O TOPPO'S BEM 22 (Pattam Parasetship) K Ryon 8-S
CTY PRINCESS (A Wasson) M Dods 6-3
O4 COLLESE MAID 19 (Bruce Parinership) J Goldie 8-3
MISS ROYAMBE (M Barrio) K Nicholas 8-3
THE WIFE (J Gill) T Bristerly 8-3
3 ALABAMA WURLEYS (Watson) Facing D Morris 8-0
ALISTAR († Bestorn) M W Easterly 8-0
SPRING SOMG (feacing Labes) M Sowershy 8-0
SPRING SOMG (feacing Labes) M Sowershy 8-0

COMANNOCD would have been better placed with a higher traw but is still the most likely winner. He was smillarly badly drawn when a slow-starting, never-nearer 6'v-1 bind of 17 to Optimate at Windsor (51, good to firm) on his debut and should do better for that experience. Optimate followed up in impressive style at Ascod yesterday. Alabama Wurtley is well positioned on the standar rails but the form of her debut 44st third to Charbeigh Keary in a Folkestone (5t, soft) claimer appears only modest. College Maiot stried to improve on her debut effort when 9f fourth to Barringer at Hamution (5t, heavy) and there are almost certainly bigger dangers furting amongst the newcomman. Pal Hastam saddless two interesting softs in Will freson, a faulf-drother by Mutadotameth to a winner in larly, and Late Night Lady, a klujade filly who is a half-estate to winners here and stroad, while The Wile, an Efision filly out of 71 winner Great Steps, is another who makes some appeal on paper.

BETTING: 3-1 Swampy. 4-1 Grov. 9-2 Presty Dovious. 7-1 Send Hank. 8-1 Susy Wells, 10-1 others.

1998: ARDLEIGH CHARMER 3-8-3 J Gotsbed (4-1 (1 lan) C Days 15 ran

Not suprisingly a low-grade affair for a maden handicap and recent form or thin on the ground. SWAMPY is one for whom a case can be made and looks sue to go well. He returned a fair effort to Revin McAudate on the final start at two years and, after three runs on the affa-returner, not set starts since when returned to not at Epitestone (1m 11 4Mpt, sob)) est time, finishing 3%1 third of 14 to Compton Amica. Susy Wells, runner-up in a Haydock settler (1m) lost August, probably has a small race in her and should strip fitter for her 4%1 fourth to Hush Money in a 0-65 rated madden at Thesk (7) good) 12 days ago. Gloud has been eased 2b in the handicap shock her responsance 61 fourth of 23 to Utita Calm at Ripon (1m 21, good to Imm), but Pratty (Divisors, a 1%) second to Sunset Lady at Ayr (1m, soft) test October, could just need the outing on her first start since.

| Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Definition | Def

BETTING: 4-1 Trojan Hera. 5-1 Thats Life, 6-1 Ananc's Ash. 7-1 Birchmood Sun, Myrmdon, 8-1 Persian Fay-10, 10-1 Dandy Regart, 20-1 others. 1998: BRICHWOOD SUN 8-9-9 K Darley (7-2 jr lav) M Dods 18 ran

Neither Birchwood Sun er Danty (7-2 ir twi M Dods 10 ran
Neither Birchwood Sun ner Danty Repent had shown their
best for a little white belore filling the brist two places in an
18-runner seller at Portietract (61, soft) inthe days ago. The
lowner, who had 34-li in hand at the line, it tancied to confirm superiority on Sib worse terms, but
PERSIAN FAVRE is preferred to the pair. He strend some useful harm as year when writing at
Haydock and competing in handcaps oil marks in the 80s and takes a big drop in class here. The word
is that he is not the horse he was after he showed listle in two fundite starts this winter and east soundly
beaten back on the Pat at Newcastle (71) earlier in the morth, but there was good market support for
him at Gostorit Park and an unknowable low draw did fittle for his clance. Treats (the made light wort
of a Lingfled seller (6) on the all-weather in February and continued in form when finishing 31 third to
Malka in a Workerhampton claimer (61, staintard) the following mouth. He has yet to encounter ground
this son on but but should not be far away it handling the conditions

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Barry Fenton was yesterday banned for ten days for his use

of the whip when winning the Whitbread Gold Cup on Eulogy at Sandown last Saturday. He was suspended under the rule which came into force on March I to cover major races, and will be out on days when jump racing take places between May I-13.

JOCKEYS

Wins Ross

Wins Rms % JOCKEYS
4 15 26.7 K Daley
8 37 25.8 R French
3 19 15.8 S Santes
9 66 13.6 C Lowther
14 117 12.0 J Carroll

TRAINERS

l Cumeni Sa M Prescon

3.20 ARKSEY SELLING STAKES (\$2,721: 7f) (18 rumers)

2.50 NAWTON APPRENTICES MAIDEN HANDICAP

(£1,882: 1m 1f) (16 runners)

3,50 On Till Morning

4.20 Nabonassar 4,50 Bold Amusement (nb)

late results Windsor

6.30 (1m 67yd) 1, Sweet Pes (T Cuann, 4-1 p-lay); 2, Bird Ol Pray (14-1), 3, Brenda Dae (20-1) Respond 4-1 p-lay, 9 ran 61, hd. J

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

(2-Y-0: £3,407: 5f) (17 runners)

Dunkop Toler E4 10, 91 70, E4 70, E2 00. DF 864.80 CSF 854.37. Tricest 896.59. 7,00 (SI 10yd) 1. Milater Tricky (N Day, 16-1), 2. Coloi Cârnale (16-1), 3. Denomy Mystery (7-1) Polly Golginity 4-1 (av 15 ran Ns. 3/ P Mitchell, Toler 824.90, 65.80, 861.0, 25.60 DF 8278.10 CSF 8227.51 Tricest 91,836.81

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

7.30 (1m 67/d) 1, Barrister (T Sprake, 10-1); 2, Middelverke (12-1); 3, Competitol (2-1 law) 18 ran 114, 51 R Charlton, Toles (213-30; 627-0), 64 00, 61 20, 0F: 694 10 CSF, 6127-73.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

10-1); 2, Rhembold (14-1); 3, Bronzino (7-1); 4, Hornestaud (3-1 layi-19 ran NR. Broughtons Error, Gallant Felbox, Sweet Patropie NA, 2'sl. D Elsworth. Tote: C13-10; C2-50, 2'50, c'50, Ct. 20, DT 256 50 CSF: C135 63 Tro Huntingdon

Going: good

Balley Tore £2.20, £1.30, £2.60, £1.30 DF £38.20, CSF £33.81. 23.20. CSF (23.81).
7.15 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Marching Mitroutis, (Mr T Gibney, 11-10 fav); 2, Pangeran (11-4); 3, Snefley Cop (13-2) 12 ran, Mr. Banchsle 14, 15 Gap Brown Toes, 22.00, 21.40, £1.10, £2.20 DF 12.10, CSF (23.88) 7.45 (2m 51) 10yd Inde) 1, Badi Strong (Mr N Fethly, 5-2 Lav), 2, Northern Stor 19-1), 3, Ketly Mac (12-1), 13 zm. NR Feorless Worder, Job Rape, ³J, 2. G Hubbard Tote: £3.00, £1.40, £1.40, £2.90, DF: £12.80 CSF: £21.09, Treast: £207.51.

Celeric, right, lands the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

form (f - tell P - pulled up. U - unseated inter. 8 -brought down, S - slipped up. R - refused. D - dis-qualified) Horse's name. Days since less outing. J Il jumps (8 - blinters. V - elsor. T - bragge strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshleid. C - course winner. D - disbesten tavourtie in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - Firm, good to Firm, hard. G - good. S - solt, good to solt, heavy). Owner in brackets. Testner. Age and weight to be carriec, Rid-er plus any allowence. Timeleoper's speed raining.

3.50 CLIFTON WOOD FILLIES HANDICAP (£5,248; 5f) (11 runners)

FERDING THE PLOTE AND THE

1998: JENNELLE 4-10-0 D Holland (5-4 lav) C Dwyer 6 ran

Whitz: Not sprung a 33-1 surprise when beating lyony's Grab
Hirs 34 over course and distance from 9th out of the handicap
throwests ago. That did not look a flute bud, of a mark 8th
higher, she will have to improve again. ROSE'S TREASURE lost her way quiling the second half all sides
season and cut little for on the return bud isoted that she was rearry in hundred, had in her best when season and cut unde lot on ner return, but harted that she was readly to bounce back to her best when chasing home Bevelena at Carickic (St, soft) ast week. She had Charine Series (search stack had and, with underboot conditions again in her lavour, can go one better. On Till Morning gained reward for her consistency when making all in an ordinary making at Musselburgh (SI) in September. She is the type to pay her way this year but is untilled to be able to downtate here as Charlie Girl, Boilin Ann (from here in August) and Frilly Rivort (ran poorly or reappearance) all Rivo to foce the pace. Dominate with be all the better tor her cometrack effort at Thirsk and makes more appeal than Gold Edge, who is on a fosing run of 23, and Cawin Patrot.

4.20 sedbergh median auction maiden stakes (3-Y-0: £3,475: 7f) (16 runners)



BETTING: 6-4 Nationassar, 9-4 Northern Spring, 8-1 Don Osporte, Mr Specializion, 10-1 Climarron Lady, 16-1 Bollio Rotand, Flours thelinest, 25-1 others. 1998: BODFARI PRIDE 9-0 D Winght (7-2) A Bailey 11 nan

NABONASSAR (nep) rat a race brimming with promise when staying on strongly to be 21 second to Little Rock, his stablemate, at Lecester [7], good to soit) in October. This stablemate at Lecester [7], good to soit) in October. This stablemate at Lecester [7], good to soit) in October. This stablemate at Lecester [7], good to soit) in October. This stable while buttle Rock did not let the form down when beating Ballet Master and company on his return at Sandown. Morthern Spring, beaten a neck by Sharoura on his comeback at Doncaster (6) before going down by just a short-head to Oete at Newmarket (77), deserves a change of kontane but may apply to serie to serie for since. All Speculation, well beaten on his feturn in a hot hendicap at Newmarket [1m, good to firm), is dropped in grade and will appreciate the softer going. Clantamon Lady, no maich for Rainbow Romen at Potessione [71, heavy), will have to show significant improvement to brouble the principals. Clashedy Rose, who is a half-sister to three middle-distance whereirs, looks the most interesting of the five newcomers.

4.50 PAT PHOENIX HANDICAP (£3,612: 1m 3f) (17 runners)



Long handicay: Fatahalihali 7-5, Simple Ideas 7-6, Notation 7-4. BETTING: 4-1 Falstquidale, 9-2 Replant, 8-1 Begorrat, Bold Amusernent, Cottage Prince, 10-1 Portile Sophie Stolen Music, 12-1 orbers.

1986: RICCARTON 5-8-12 K Darley (13-2) P Calver 10 ran

Dr Woodstock had Portite Sophia (4th), Simple Ideals (8th), and Typhonon. Egipt. (14th) all behind when chassing home piccarilly in a seking handicap here (in 4th) three weeks ago and is weighted to confirm the form. He should give a good account but preference is for BOLD AlkinSchriff. The nine-year-old proved he was still capable of getting his hear in loon when staying on shoutly to best Orbane (received 15th) by a neck here in November (1m 21, good to soit and straped encouragingly on his return when a keeping-on fifth, having been set plenty to do, to Legal issue at Thursk (1m). That run will have blown away a lev colorebs and this forage risp will suff termuch better. Register, not discipaced between Prince Nacholas at Harnition (1m 41, heavy), and Faterhaldmain, V-I second to between To You at Southwell (1m 4f) on his reappearance, look the best of the remainder. 1998: RICCARTON 5-8-12 K Darley (13-2) P Calver 10 ran.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

BRIGHTON: TRAINERS: J Dunlop, 11 winners from 35 numers, 31.4%; W Muir, 12 from 56, 21.4%; K Nory, 9 from 48, 18.8%; J Toller, 4 from 23, 17.4%; M Bell, 6 from 35, 17.1%; R Hannon, 34 from 207, 16.4%; C Brittsin, 6 from 38, 15.8%, JOCKEYS: R Hills, 3 winners from 11 fides, 27.3%; N Pollerd, 8 from 33, 24.2%; T Quinn, 38 from 162, 23.5%; Pat Eddey, 7 from 30, 23.3%; R Bristand, 4 from 18, 22.2%; M Roberts, 10 from 53, 16.9%; Dane O'Neill, 30 from 181, 16.6%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: TRAINERS: M Bell, 20 winners from 79 runners, 25.3%; Sir M Prescott, 28 from 118, 23.7%; M Johnston, 47 from 252, 18,7%; B Murray, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Felgate, 8 from 48, 18,7%; N Callaghan, 3 from 19, 15.6%; J Eyre, 28 from 181, 14.4%. JOCKEYS: W Flyan, 12 winners from 71 rides, 16.9%; J Egan, 23 from 155, 14.8%; J Tate, 16 from 108, 14.8%; D Sweeney, 19 from 131, 14.5%; G Duffleid, 29 from 208, 13.9%; T McLaughlin, 26 from 193, 13.5%.

BRIGHTON

ROB WRIGHT 2.00 Cowboys And Angels 4.00 Miss Bananas 2.30 Emmajoun 4.30 Lucky Gitano 3.00 Caernarion Bay (nap) 5.00 Mellors 3.30 Shanghi Crab

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 PAVELION ASSET MANAGEMENT MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,866: 51 59yd) (15 runners)



2.30 BRIGHTON ANTIQUES FAIR THIS WEEKEND CLAIMING STAKES (£2,232; 5f 59yd) (12)



3.00 AYH PARTNERSHIP HANDICAP

(£2,761: 1m 3f 196yd) (18 runners)

(\$2,761: 1m 3f 196yd) (18 runners)

1 (15) 0-00 RODERICK HIDSON 42 (F) J B Pouton 7-10-8 A Morris 29 2 (10) 4-00 ADMIRALS SECRET 22 (20,6) C Wall 10-9-13

3 (5) 00-3 PAY HIDMARE 8 (D,F,6) I Baiding 11-9-12

Learne Masterton (7) 65 (6) 14-0 RROWNING 24 (D,F) D Costing 4-9-12 ... All Roberts 61 (5) 100-1 THALLINE (17) (5) M Berchard 6-9-11 ... C Roberts 61 (7) -005 TALLINE (17) (5) P Miscreth 5-9-11 ... C Roberts 61 (7) -005 TALLINE (17) (5) P Miscreth 5-9-11 ... N Catton (6) 77 (10) 440- MCE GUY 33J S Dow 4-9-10 ... N Catton (6) 77 (10) 440- MCE GUY 33J S Dow 4-9-10 ... Denton 42 (10) 000 PORESS PARK 234 C Horgen 4-9-10 ... Denton 42 (10) 000 PORESS PARK 234 C Horgen 4-9-10 ... Denton 42 (10) 000 VIZALAR 9 R Rower 4-9-10 ... Denton 42 (10) 000 VIZALAR 9 R Rower 4-9-10 ... Denton 62 (10) VIZALAR 9 R Rower 4-9-10 ... Denton 62 (10) 000 VIZALAR 9 R Rower 4-9-10 ... Denton 64 (10) 000 VIZALAR 9 R Rower 4-9-10 ... Denton 65 (10) 000 MYSTIC GUEST 48J (6) D.F.R Meckalith 5-9-8 K Restor 30 (10) 00-0 MYSTIC GUEST 48J (6) R UTBY 5-9-1 ... G Frankrer (7) MYSTIC GUEST (7) (13) CAERANARE NN BAY 53 G L Miscra 4-9-1 ... T During 64 (17) (13) CAERANARE NN BAY 53 G L Miscra 4-9-1 ... T During 64 (17) (13) CAERANARE NN BAY 53 G L Miscra 4-9-1 ... T Syrain 64 (18) (15) 5150 MURIGILL DANCER 24 (0,6) R O'Sullivan 5-9-11 N Forlard (3) 66 (14) MISCRA SCIELL 6-1 Pay Hornage, 7-1 Mystic Cuest, 8-1 Aksalib, 10-1

Quest: 4.00 Village Native, 5.00 Crested Knight, 5.30 Young-Un, REDCAR 4.20 M, Speculation, WOLVERHAMPTON 2.10 Baytown

3.30 WYNNE BAXTER GODFREE SOLICITORS **CLASSIFIED STAKES (£3,745: 71 214yd) (7)** 1 (7) 1-03 BOLD DRIENTAL BM (0.7) J-Bits 5-9-7 ... J Fowle (7) 84 2 (6) 10-0 GRAND SLAM 34 (0.7) R Humon 4-9-7 ... Denn O'hielli 80 3 (4) 80-5 BON MOLWITAM 35 (7.6) N Delagram 4-9-7 N Cather (8) 7 4 (3) 0-80 MANSA MUSA 24 M Chanson 4-9-7 ... T Caston (82 5 (2) 00-3 SKY DOME 34 (0.7-5) M Tempkins 6-9-7 ... T Drowne 83 6 (5) 1 SHANGHE CRAB 38 (0) M Bell 3-6-9 ... M Fernon 46 7 (1) 430- GHAAZI 195 (7) E Doulop 3-8-7 ... R Hills 70

5-2 Shanghi Crab, 11-4 Sky Dorne, 3-1 Shaazi, 7-1 Iron Mountain, 8-1 Srand Slam, 14-1 Bold Driental, 20-1 Marest Mess.

4.00 go racing free with the tote handscap (£4,527: 5l 213yd) (14)



4.30 HYDE BURGESS DESIGN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,285; 1m 1f 209yd) (8)

0-11 Lucky Gitano, 5-2 Lamerie, 6-1 Assured Movements, 10-1 other		4 5 6 7 8	2000	634 25-3 00-4 0-0 00-8 0-0	LAMER LUCKY SKARI ALMIN REKAK WANSI	JE 13 R I GITANO RED 9 P I 267 B F STAR 10 SANCE I FORD LAI	Hammon, 9 26 J Dur Ha Milliche Hambury 9 C Cyzen H JADY 29 DY 197 C	-0 190 9-0 11 9-0 -0 1 Watso Kelleti (P Robinson Dane O'Nell Pat Eddery — A Clark — R Hills Faultoner (3) — V Stattery — N Cartisie , 10-1 onlee
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5.00 CLIMING PENTAR ARCHITECTS HANDICAP (Div I: £2,879: 7i 214yd) (15)

1 (10) 6445 DUDALMATTEENA 9 (8F) V State 4-9-12 A Daty (3) 68 2 (12) 2553 PROSPECTION'S COVE 17 (CD.6) J Pesco 6-9-7 .R Price 83 3 (5) 030 MOROCCO 188 (D.F.S) M Charmon 10-9-5 D Mesco (7) 79 4 (1) 001- MOON AT MOST 218 (D.F.) L Cobras 4-9-1 ... S proprie 85 5 (11) 30-0 WORTH THE ESFORT 17 M Tomphite 4-9-0 .S Determe 85 9-2 Mellots, 5-1 Prospector's Cove, 6-1 Gudalmuteena, 7-1 others.

5.30 cuming pentar architects handicap (Div II: \$2.866: 7f 214mf) /15)

(510 11. 62,000: 11. 61. 1/0) (10)	
1 (5) 030- PARTING ECHO 148 J Toller 4-9-10 S Whitworth	67
2 (13) 2200 ROI DE DANSE 12 (CD,6) M Quim 4-9-8 F Norton	77
3 (15) 12-2 MIJTABASSER 98 (BF,C,F,S) G L Moore 5-9-5 T Quine	77
4 (6) 00-0 SWING BALL 21 T Watson 4-9-2 V Statzery	17
5 (3) 5400 SCOTLAND BAY 33 (5) P Buger 4-8-13 S Dyowne	77
5 (2) 5400 SCOTLAND BAY 33 (5) P Butter 4-8-13 S Drowne 6 (7) 30-3 ARBENG 17 (F) B Palling 4-8-13 G Faultiner (3) 7 (9) 0-06 AFTER EIGHT 42 (B) M Saenders 4-8-12 N Carlisle	66
/ (b) U-(x) Ar (54 C) G(1) (42 (b) M Samons 4-8-12 N Carese	- 64
8 (12) 0-00 YOUNG-UN 13 (6) M Rvan 4-8-10 P McCabe	70
9 (10) \$120 SHADES OF LOVE 20 V Scane 5-8-9 X Failor	100
10 (2) 0541 CONFRONTER 20 (CO.F.G.S) S Dow 10-8-7 .P Dos (3)	87
11 f(1) 2500 CLONDE 42 fD.F.S) R Ingram 5-8-6 N Pollant (3)	75
12 (8) 352- ARDENT 156 (CO.S) Miss 8 Sanders 5-8-5 A Clark	77
13 (1) 2066 FAMOUS 17 (DJF,G,S) J Bridger 6-8-1 _ R Brisland (7)	90
14 (14) -000 TOREFRO 90 B Corley 4-8-0	77
15 14) D20- FORT XMOX 37J (B.C.D.F.G) R Flower 8-7-10 C Pusher	81

4-1 Mutabassic, 5-1 Confederar, 13-2 Ardent, 8-1 Parting Echo, 10-1 others.

STAKES (Div II: £1,543: 61) (11)

ROB WRIGHT 2.10 Welch's Dream 3.40 Palacegate Touch 4.10 Dil 2.40 Ivor's Deed 4.40 Lisala 3.10 Night Life 5.10 Sunny Chief

Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.10 Kirsch. 3.10 NIGHT LIFE (nap). 5.10 Sunny Chief. GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 SLOANE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,290: 5f) (11 runners)

2.40 GROSVENOR AMATEUR RIDERS CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £1,553: 6f) (11)

7-4 Weich's Dreams, 9-2 Kinsch, 7-1 Heathyards Lad, 8-1 others.

3.10 PARLIAMENT FILLIES HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,734: 5f) (11)



3.40 GROSVENOR AMATEUR RIDERS CLAIMING

4.10 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP ISHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£7,003: 51) (13)

1-100 DL 13 D.F.B. Mr.; N Macauley 4-10-0 ... Dean McKoown 9
2 0000 KNRG OF PERIL 5 (F.B.S.) N Ularnoden 6-9-12. T G McL. Regiden 11
3 3005 MUKARRAB 24 (D.G.) D Craomen 5-9-9 G Deffect 12
4 044 - FRST MATE 15-9 B.C.D.G.S.S Bearing 6-9-8 ... G Strange 13
5 5401 TIME TO FLY 20 (B.C.D.) B Numay 6-8-9 J F Egan 1
6 10-0 CARTINEL PARK 30 (D.F.S.) J Berry 3-8-8 J Specing 13
7 0-00 BLINNOEL LANE 8 (F.S.) A Javis 48-8 D Sweeney 6
8 1310 SOTONIAN 20 (CD.S.) P Pelgate 6-8-7 A Michalle (S) 7
9 2310 TROJAN GRI (CD.S.) P Pelgate 6-8-7 A Michalle (S) 7
9 2310 TROJAN GRI (CD.S.) P N Ulemoden 4-8-2 J Tate 4
11 0-66 CONSULTANT 25 (CD.) N Ulemoden 4-7-13 J Curm 10
12 0-10 SMYNEDED OREAM 12 (D.S.) T Elevingion 6-7-12 A Mackay 2
13 0-14 MAKE READY 5 (C.D.) J Neville 7-10 A Polf (3) 5-9 Blundell Lane, Del, 6-9 Sotonian, 7-1 Tene To Fly, 8-1 Mukarab, Trojan Gul. 10-1 Cartmel Park, Consultani, 12-1 Swynburd Dream, Dryad, 14-1 others.

4.40 manchester selling stakes (3-Y-0: £1,861: 1m 1f 79yd) (9)



5.10 BERKELEY HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £2,304: 1m 4f) (11)



Derbyshire

lose their

grip after

Slater

sparkles

BY JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31

THE first championship

match of the season at Canter-

bury had everything that a Kent supporter could ask for, except a more encouraging per-

formance from their team.

There were blue skies, a blame-

less pitch and, if you could

keep out of a keen wind, ideal

runs ahead of Kent

Lewis gives further reminder of quality

Lancashire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

AROUND the country, attention is centred, understandably, on players earmarked for World Cup action. At Grace Road yesterday, for instance, Ian Austin provoked more than a few murmurings by pulling out of the meeting between the champions and runners-up of last season.

A potentially heavyweight PPP county championship contest was also scaled down somewhat by the absence from the Lancashire team of Fairbrother, another member of the England World Cup squad, Martin and Atherton. Fairbrother was rested and Austin has a thigh muscle

in the circumstances, the likes of Darren Maddy and Chris Lewis had to fight hard to be noticed. But, in the end, noticed they were. Form and fitness seemed to be commodities in worryingly short supply in the England camp, but Austin moved to calm fears that his injury might jeopardise his involvement in the World

Cup. He has played only one CGU National League match this season, plus his three appearances in Sharjah, since having an operation on his left knee during the winter, but Austin said: "I don't think there is a serious problem. I have had some improvement in the thigh but not enough to play in a four-day game. As far as I am concerned I will be on schedule for the World

The absence of Austin and Martin, also injured, allowed Smethurst, 22, to make his second championship appearance and he picked up the wicket of Smith after Crawley, the Lancashire captain, had, perhaps defensively, chosen to

LEICESTER (first day of four: bowl first. It was Richard Green, however, who caught the eye in an inexperienced attack; he took four top-order wickets and a smart return catch to end Maddy's innings. Maddy, sixth out, scored 86

and has come back strongly from shabby treatment by the England selectors just under a year ago. The parallels with the start of the 1998 season are already apparent. Maddy, returning then as now from a successful winter A tour, began in good form and was picked for the Texaco Trophy against South Africa with a Test debut widely predicted to

It never happened. He made one run in his only innings in two Texaco matches and Maddy - his confidence clearly undermined — eventually strug-gled to a pitiful 512 championship runs from 23 innings, one of thosebeing a 162, against Durham.

Yesterday, however, he batted with great assurance against the moving ball and now, with two full months before the Test series against New Zealand, has plenty of opportunity to put the painful memories behind him.

Lewis would be the choice of many people as a World Cup all-rounder ahead of the likes of Austin, including, by some accounts, Alec Stewart. Lewis made 139 a fortnight ago when Leicestershire launched the defence of their title by thrashing Essex and yesterday an unbeaten 77 represented another massive contribution in the context of this game.

First with Nixon and then in a last-wicket stand of 72 with Brimson, Lewis denied Lancashire tangible reward for a spirited deployment of their limited resources. Batting is not likely to be straightforward against Leicestershire's pace attack and Chilton may rue dropping Lewis, on 30, off



Kendall pulls powerfully towards the boundary as Speight, the wicketkeeper, looks on. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

Kendall in mint condition

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 344 for eight wickets against

THERE is much wisdom in the adage that practice makes perfect, but Will Kendall will testify that rest, too, has a role in the quest to improve. A decision to leave his bat untouched from the end of last season until the beginning of March is beginning to appear

inspired.

Last week, Kendail scored 93 for Hampshire against Kent, when a leading edge resulted in Martin McCague accepting a return catch. He was entitled to feel disappointed with his dismissal yesterday, for attempting to work John Wood off his pads carried a certain resemblance, but this time a career-best score in the county championship of 105 ensured that satisfaction soon replaced any initial frustration.

With Adrian Aymes and Derek Kenway contributing half-centuries and Dimitri

bition of batting in front of

By RICHARD HOBSON

cure the innings, Hampshire enjoyed much the better of a first day played, for the most part, in what older spectators were able to identify as sunshine. They are the only side yet to record a first-class victory against Durham, but that might change before the weekend is over.

Having withstood a searching examination of his backfoot technique against the pace of Harmison, on a generally

Mascarenhas scoring 44 to se- slow pitch, Kendall accumulated his runs phlegmatically as a quartet of Durham seamers failed to bowl with the consistency that Boon, the captain, would have required. It said much that soon after lunch he should turn to the off-spin of Gough, who bowled 24 overs in eight matches last season.

Durham had began constructively. Lewis, at short leg. reacted swiftly to remove Stephenson and White in the first hour and Wood, maintain-

SCOREBOARD FROM CHESTER-LE-STREET

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings G W White c Lewis b Harmison.....25 J P Stephenson c Lewis b Brown....7 WS Kendall c Speight b Wood...105 19 A Smith c Betts b Wood. A N Aymes c and b Wood. D A Kenway not out......56
A D Mascarenhas b Collingwood..44) Udal run out...

A C Morns c Collingwood b Brown.2 A M McLean not out... Extras (b 2, lb 13, nb 24). Total (8 wkts, 105 overs) S J Renshaw to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-39, 3-70, 4-212, 5-239, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340. BOWLING: Brown 24-6-64-2; Betts 21-6-54-0; Harmison 18-2-83-1; Wood 23-4-76-3; Gough 7-2-23-0; Collingwood 12-2-29-1.

DURHAM: JJB Lewis, MA Gough, J E Morris, JA Daley, *D C Boon, P D Collingwood, †M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harmison.

Bonus points: Durham 3 Hampshire 3. Umpires: N A Mailender and K E Palmer.

between mid-on and mid-off, while Kendail remained unhurried, knowing that the four ball" was never far away. His fifty arrived after 122 minutes with five fours and he breached the boundary on nine further occasions in progressing to three figures.

Aymes drove a half-volley back to Wood and as Kendall, after 211 minutes, provided Speight with a catch, the bowler could reflect upon belated reward for the occasions when he beat the outside edge in a far better first spell. Kenway, who is one run away from equalling his career-best of 57 today, and Mascarenhas then put on 83 to ensure that the efforts of the top order would not go to waste.

alertly at third slip. Yet having restricted Hampshire to 70 for three, they allowed Kendall and Aymes to reverse the situation with a partnership of 142 Aymes, who has established himself at No 5, played nearly

ing a length to assist swing.

then forced an outside edge

from Smith, which Betts held

snap up two quick wickets in a fiery spell that cost 16. Mark Ealham took two more as Derbyshire lost five wickets for 26 runs and Kent had forced their way back into the game. Slater's sparkling innings had been ended by a sharp catch at mid-off after he had

an Rollins.

made 65 out of 131 from 77 balls. Bearing in mind that his first championship half-century last season was not until August, he was off to a roaring start. If this sort of form, which brought him eight fours and a couple of sure, clean sixes, continues, Derbyshire's potential will be greatly enhanced. Despite their evening col-

lapse, there are, on this evi-dence, several other reasons why Derbyshire could be up there with the best of them by the end of the season. Their off-the-field troubles seem to be behind them. Perhaps Colin Wells, their new coach, has influenced their general approach in the field. Here it was keen, competent and aggres-

The quicker bowlers kept the ball up to the bat, giving it a chance to swing. None more so than Kevin Dean. His disruns before being bowled by Ilott, but with the precedent missals of Fulton, Key and troubled in scoring 30. Tim Wells were classics of their kind: straight balls leaving the batsmen, followed by the late, dipping inswinger of full length. The three-card trick was never more ably demon-strated. With DeFreitas and Cork in support, Kent were reduced to 70 for seven.

In spite of Walker's fine, restrained innings, which brought him 53 in nearly three hours and helped double the score for the last three wickets, Kent were in trouble. Andrew Symonds was given his county cap in the tea interval, but there was little else for Kent to cheer as Slater and Rollins took them apart.

Derbyshire's century opening stand was achieved at twice the pace of Kent's own milestone, but after Weston was unfortunately run out, it was Derbyshire who were reined in before bad light inter-

When Sussex were bowled

out for 222, the broadest Welsh

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP county championship Essex v Warwickshire ESSEX V WARWICKSTHEE
CHELMSFORD (first day, of lour Essex won
1050; ESSEX, saidt name first enwings wickely
in hand, are 256 cans behind Warwicketing
WARWICKSTHEE, First livings
N V in the Claim b Cowen. 2
MA Wagh the Bolt . 3
D I Herrip Day b Grove . 30
I L pervise c Hussen b lazin . 19

M A Wagh the B POT
D I Hering Dow b Grove
T L Penney c Hussem b kan
† T Fros: c Hyam b kan
D R Brown c Grayson b lost
"N M K Smith b lost
A F Gdes c Levi b Cowen
G Weich not cut
I A Munten c Such b Grayson
Est H Gardins b Grayson
Est B G Grayson
From (Fig. 6 Covern)

Ettas (0.5, 5 11: 10: 4).

Total (93.5 overs).

771

FALL OF VICKETS 1:2.26, 3-47, 471

5-76, 6-51, 7:171 8-202, 9-261.

BOWLING Covers 18-4-60-2, for 21-8-43, grove 13-3-591, fam 17-2-40-2.

Such 17-2-37-0, Grayson 7-5-3-15-2.

ESSEIX First Innegs. P J Prichard low to Golding D D J Robinson rot out ...

Extras (nb 2). Total (1 wid, 8 overs) 2

N Hussan, S G Law, R C Ran, A P Grayson, 1 B J Hyam, A P Cowan, J O Grove and P M Such to bat
P M Such to bat
FALL OF WICKETS 1-12

BOWLING: Giddins 4-1-7-1 Weich 4-2-8-0

Umpares, J C Balderstone and D R Shephard.

Glamorgan v Sussex

Glamorgan v Sussex won toos)
Garnorgan, with eight inst-mangs wickets in nand, are 183 nats behind Sussex won toos)
R Microgramine c Dale b Jones 28
M T E Perce low b Dale 13
C J Adams C Maynard b Thomas 12
P A Coney c Evans b Croli 6
R K Rao c Maynard b Thomas 9
R S C Marn-Jenkins low b Jones 5
R J Kirtley c Shaw b Jones 5
M J R S C Marn-Jenkins low b Thomas 9
L R A Robinson not out 0
L R A Rashad b Jones 4
U E A Rashad b Jones 4
U E A Rashad b Jones 4
U E A Rashad b Jones 45
Latass R 3, b 3 10
Total (88.3 overs) 222 conditions for watching Kent build a useful score after being sent into bat by Dominic Cork. But Kent's batting failed dismally, with the notable exception of Matthew Walker, 21lb lighter than he was last season and looking the better for it in

every way. After they had been bowled out for 141, they were put to the sword by Michael Slater and bludgeoned by Adri-Prospects for Kent looked bleak when, after a century

partnership between these two, Derbyshire passed the Kent total with eight wickets in hand. If ever a team had a match by the scruff of the neck FALL OF WICKETS 1-14, 2-38. at 5pm on the first day of a BOWLING Kirtley 5-0-19-1, Martin-Jeniur 4-0-13-0: Reshid 2-1-4-0, Robinson 2-1-2four-day match, it was Derby-Umpres. J H Harrystere and J H Harris shire yesterday. The picture changed some-Gloucestershire v Middlesex

Gloucestershire v Middlesex
BRISTOL (Itest day of lour, Middlesex worked and the seven worked segment have scored 246 for seven workets against Middlesex
GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings
K J Barnett b Fraser
1 H C Hancock c Kettleborough b Cook 1
D R Hewson c Shah b Tufnel 23
"M W Alleyne c Ramprakash b Shah M G N Windows c Nash b Tufnel 15
R I Dawson c Nash b Hewitt 15
J N Shape Bow b Fraser 18
If C Russell not our 35
J Lewis not out 55 what, though, as Dean Headley recovered from a severe mauling at the hands of Slater and Rollins - his first spell of six overs cost him 47 runs — to

TH C Fusses not out 5

Devis not out 5

Extres (b 1, b 7, nb 4). 12

Total (7 withs 110 overs) 245

J M M Avers and A M Smith to bet FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-56, 3-91, 4-120. 5-131, 6-181, 7-230 5-131, 6-181, 7-230
BOWLING, Fraser 27-13-35-2; Cook
13-2-51-1; Hawitt 17-2-56-1; Turnell
35-8-55-2; Weakes 10-4-16-0; Shah 7-2-13-1
MIDDILESEY: M A Roseberry, J L Langer,
"M R Hamprakash, R A Kettleborough, O A
Shah, P N Weekes, ID C Nash, J P Hawitt, S
J Cook, A R C Fraser, P C R Turnel,
Umpires: D J Constant and M J Hams Kent v Derbyshire CANTERBURY (last day of four: Derbyshire won loss). Derbyshire, with hour first-manys wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

Editas (B 1u, no symmotronia) 141. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-20, 3-27, 4-43, 5-55, 6-59, 7-70, 8-94, 8-112 BOWLING: DeFrester 17-3-48-3, Deen 17-5-34-4, Cork 11-1-34-2; Smith 4-1-15-1

Umpres. J W Holder and R Palmer
Lericestershire v Laurcashire
Lericestershire vi Laurcashire
won loss: Leicestershire have scored 337
for nine wickets against Laurcashire
LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
V J Wells c Hegg b Green 46
D I. Maddy c and b Green 86
I J Succlife b Green 68
B F Smith c Fintolf b Smethurst 17
" J J Whitaler c Hegg b Chapple 14
A Habib c Fintolf b Green 12
TP A Nixon low b Chapple 55
C C Lawks nol out. 77
M S Kasprovitez low b Chapple 5
A D Mutality c Lloyd b Chapple 0
M T Brimson nol out. 22

8-1-38-U; CHRIDO 2-1-9-U; LANCASHIRE: N T Wood, M J Chilton, "J P Crawley, G D Lloyd, A Firstoff, TW K Hegg, M Wasterson, C P Schofield, G Chepple, R J Green, M P Smethurst. Umpress: K J Lyons and A Clarkson.

Northamptonshire v Surrey NORTHAMPTON (first day of lour, Northants won toss): Surrey, with nine first-imangs wide ets in hand, are 176 nins behind Northants NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First linnings
R J Belley low b Bicknell 75
"M L Hayden b Bicknell 11
M B Loye c Shahid b Bicknell 11
L I Warman and the

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-75, 3-169, 4-271, 5-311, 6-370.

BOWLING: Sheriyer 19-2-83-1; Lipitol. 19-5-82-1; Haynes 11-3-28-0; Lempit 21-4-56-2; Laetherdale 11-0-43-1; Birdworth 21-3-80-1; Solarid 2-0-19-0.

WORCESTERSHIPE: P. R. Pollard, W. P. C. Weston, G. A. Hollow, V. S. Solarid, D. A. Laetherdale, G. R. Haynes, "13, Phrodes, S. R. Lampit, R. K. Mingworth, A. Sheriyer, C. G. Lipitol. Umpires: 8 Dudleston and R. A. White.

Johnson in renaissance

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 377 for five wickets against

PAUL JOHNSON must be the best batsman of his generation never to have played for the England senior team. He did not look it last season when he was buckling under the burden of captaining Nottinghamshire, but he was back to his best yesterday with a century that was as warming to the Trent Bridge faithful as the long overdue sunshine.

It was an early return on Nottinghamshire's initiative in bringing back Clive Rice. who led them to two county championships in the Eighties, as manager. The first thing that Johnson did on hearing the news was to sign a new contract. The second thing he did was to get himself fit. knowing how Rice would make him suffer if he was not. As a result, he looked born again as he went within two runs of scoring 100 between

NORTHAMPTON (first day

of four: Northamptonshire

won toss): Surrey, with nine

first-innings wickets in hand.

are 176 runs behind North-

SURREY will repine over not

having bowled out Northamp-

tonshire for rather less than

248. Rob Bailey and Paul Tay-

pairing, put on 117 in 34 overs

for the eighth wicket through

batting that was about as con-

trasting as could be. One came

up with gutsy defence and the

Had Surrey bowled a little

more accurately, they might well have been batting by ear-

ly afternoon. There was much

life in the pitch, especially for

anyone coming in from the

Northamptonshire were 9!

for seven at one stage. Bicknell

other hit the ball everywhere.

It was highly effective.

Football Ground end.

lor, who make for an unlikely

amptonshire

lunch and tea with his own pugnacious brand of strokeplay. Johnson's on-drives are better described as straight lefts, his cuts as forearm jabs Jason Gallian also asserted

and his pulls as uppercuts. himself by passing 50 for the first time in 13 championship innings since taking over the captaincy last July and Chris



Johnson: return to form

bowled Hayden as he drove at a ball of fullish length, and

had Loye held at mid-wicket,

mistiming a pull. Warren was

run out and, when Butcher

brought himself on, he caught

and bowled Penberthy and

then had Swann taken driving

Bailey, though, remains an

unflinching competitor and, af-

ter taking ten overs to get off

the mark, held the innings to-

gether. He and Taylor, whose

71 was not far off the best score

of his career, thoroughly irked

By the time Bailey was leg-before to Bicknell for 75, he

was only 27 runs short of

20,000 in first-class cricket. He

frustrated Tudor to the extent

that he was spoken to for

short-pitched bowling. Surrey, although they lost Ward to a

vicious ball from Malcolm,

and Shahid, retired hurt, end-

ed the more content.

at an away swinger.

their opponents.

to thwart Surrey

By Pat Gibson

Read, the England A wicketkeeper, put on a nice little exhi-

could not put the ball in the

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. It all added up to maximum batting points for a side which performed that feat only once last summer. What is more, they did it on a grassy pitch. There was bounce and move-

ment, but unfortunately for Worcestershire, once Liptrot had added to his five wickets against Surrey last week by having Robinson caught at third slip in his first over, they

right place often enough. Afzaal found it hard, making only 12 in the best part of two hours before Leatherdale had him caught behind, but Gallian was beginning to find some form with 82 in a little more than three hours, including 16 fours, when Lampitt claimed him leg-before.

Then there was Johnson, reviving memories of how he was rated ahead of Thorpe and Hussain on the 1991-92 A tour of the West Indies, and finally Read, more than justifying his promotion to No 6.

BRISTOL (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Glouces-

tershire have scored 246 for

THE smart new Jessop Stand

at Nevil Road glimmered in

the sunshine and was perhaps

the brightest adornment on a

day that was, by necessity, an

attritional one because of a

slow, flat pitch devoid of much

bounce and in use for the first

The plan had been to use an-

other pitch for Bristol's first

match of the season. But it

proved too wet, and this one,

due to have been played on in

a second-team match last

week, was appreciably drier.

pected much more assistance

than they received. Despite the

pitch's green hue, hardly a

ball seamed before lunch. Nor

was there any swing to speak of for Middlesex's promising

young outswing bowler. Simon Cook, making his

debut at the age of 22.

Middlesex would have ex-

time for a first-class match.

against

seven wickets

Smith takes dashing lead By Thrasy Petropoulos sequently stagnated, as he took 60 balls over his next 19

CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Essex won toss): Essex. with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

THE tale has become a familiar one for Essex. Just as they did against Leicestershire, in their first championship match of the season, for a while they lived with, even dominated, Warwickshire yesterday. It was tempting to believe that the corner had been turned and a run of championship defeats that stretches to seven matches

could be arrested. With the considerable advantage of having won the toss, Essex found little resistance in reducing Warwickshire to 84 for six by lunch on a two-paced pitch, with all six top-order batsmen dismissed. four wickets while Warwickshire recovered to 271.

They then spent the next 59 overs taking the remaining The change in fortunes after lunch could not have been

more striking. Three off-side

By Geoffrey Dean

year but because of persistent

shin soreness, spent much of his time acting as video camer-

aman for John Buchanan, the

then coach. Cook, 6ft 4in, is

highly rated by Mike Gatting.

who says that he hits the seam

a lot, a useful attribute for

bowlers of his type who are

twice as valuable if they cut

the ball back regularly. That

was how Cook took his maid-

en first-class wicket, in his sec-

ond over, when Hancock got

an inside edge on to a pad and

spell up the hill into a strong

wind. Hewitt, who replaced

him, bowled a single over into

it before asking Ramprakash

if he could come downwind.

That explained both Tufnell's

early introduction and why he

reeled off as many as 36 overs,

in which he was notably

Only Hewson tried to get af-

ter him and when he fell, giv-

economical.

Cook bowled his opening

was taken at short leg.

Cook was on the staff last

boundaries from solid back-

foot strokes from Neil Smith. the Warwickshire captain, saw Mark llott out of the attack. Jamie Grove, his replacement, was promptly clattered for three fours in his first over. In the space of only 44 balls, Smith had reached a half-century that had altered the direction and tempo of the

His innings may have sub-



ing him the charge, the rest of

the Gloucestershire batsmen

decided to remain in the

crease. Tufnell, finding him-

self cast as stock bowler, did

the job superbly and was re-

warded with a second wicket

when Windows gloved an at-

on this surface required a lot

of discipline and it was hardly

a surprise that it was the expe-

rienced players on each side

who provided it. Barnett, de-

fending stoutly and driving

sweetly square on the off side,

reached a maiden fifty for his

new county before Fraser nipped one back to bowl him

Alleyne's concentration and

commitment were admirable

as he ground out a valuable 76

in 74 overs, although he would

have rued his failure to keep

down a full-blooded cut off

Shah's occasional medium-

pace. His dismissal gave Mid-

dlesex the advantage, al-though they could not shift the

off the inside edge.

Both batting and bowling

tempted sweep.

Munton contributed 24 at No 10, and Graeme Welch weighed in with an unbeaten It was a far cry from the start when llott and Ashley Cowan did much as they

set. Ashley Giles rarely looked

pleased with the new ball. Most of the first hour was spent with Warwickshire batsmen pushing forward at thin air, and sure enough llott finished with three wickets and Cowan, Irani and Grayson two apiece — in Grayson's case the last two of the innings - but not before batting conditions were made to appear a different proposition.

The pitch may have lost much of its life as the day wore on, but Essex were unable to survive the eight overs that they were asked to negotiate before the close, los-

ing Paul Prichard leg-before reined in before bad light int playing back to Ed Giddins. Bailey drops anchor Patience pays for Alleyne Joy for Croft proves

By JOHN STERN

to be short-lived

CARDIFF (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Glamorgan,

EVEN if he hits the winning runs in the World Cup final, Robert Croft will not look more excited than he did yesterday when he had Tony Cottey, the Sussex batsman returning to his former county for the first time, caught at silly point. It was the first ball that Croft had bowled to Cottey, who had been best man at his wedding and was his

room-mate for nine seasons. Delight turned to frustration for Croft and his colleagues as Glamorgan were held up by Shaun Hum-phries, the Sussex wicketkeeper, who made his second firstclass fifty, and Umer Rashid. They put on 71 for the ninth wicket in a gritty stand.

with eight first-innings wickets grin belonged to Simon Jones. 20, son of Jeff, the former Glain hand, are 183 runs behind morgan and England left-arm seamer. Jones, playing in his fourth county championship match, took career-best figures of five for 31, including the last three wickets. A tall right-arm bowler. Jones produced balls to hurry the Sussex batsmen but this pitch, although uneven in bounce, is too slow to offer Jones and his ilk the chance to show off.

The Sussex top order failed to gauge the pace of the pitch. although Adams, the Sussex captain, was in vicious form, hitting Croft for two straight sixes. However, he could not resist further extravagance and was caught brilliantly by

Maynard at second slip for 41. Glamorgan's reply began poorly, James and Dale departing before the close.

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Southern Branch Street

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A PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE 4:30 DIVE DIV.

\$3'ETB4_

V2-12

: 5E5

M B Loye c Shehid b Bicknet. 1
R J Warren nun out. 0
D J G Seise c Bröwn b Tudor. 16
A L Penberthy c and b Butcher. 3
G P Swarn c Besty b Butcher. 0
10 Riphey c Betty b Butcher. 13
J P Taylor Ibve b Selesbury. 71
D Follet C B C Holloele b Tudor. 19
D E Malcolm not out 0
Edras (b 11, w 8, nb 22). 29
Totel (83.1 overs). 248
FALL OF WICKETS, 1-25, 2-29, 3-29, 4-57, 5-60, 6-62, 7-91, 8-208, 9-248
BOWLING: Bicknet 21-8-48-4, Tudor 19-8-59-2 B C Holloele 12-2-53-0; Butcher 11-3-19-2. Selesbury 14-1-3-39-1; A J Holloele G-1-19-0.
SURREY: First Innings
*M A Butcher not out. 36
I J Ward c Swarn b Malcolm 7
N Shahid retured hurt. 9
G P Thorpe not out. 20

G P Thorpe not out. Extras (0.4, lb 3, nb 2).....

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Section diese

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IN BRIEF

Referees prepare to be wired for sound

THE FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio season. The move, which has been proposed by Philip Don. the FA Premier League referees' officer, has been given a positive response by club chairmen, who plan also to discuss another of Don's brainchilds — the use of bleeping devices in a bid to end ball-over-the-line controversies.

wind Sall Carried

...

The initial plan is for referees to be put in constant contact with their assistants on the line via the use of headsets with radio microphones built in. All three officials will wear the devices. The aim is to enable referees to reach speedier decisions and avoid the need for touchline consultations that often inflame the mood of players

and fans. ■ Lawrie McMenemy is likely to keep his job as manager of Northern Ireland, for the time being at least, despite the country's ignominious I-I draw with Canada in Belfast on Tuesday night. There has been widespread criticism of McMenemy since the match. but he and his coaching staff had been assured previously by Jim Boyce, president of the trish Football Association. that their positions remain secure at least until after their final Euro 2000 match in Finland this October. Nicolas Anelka, the

Arsenal striker, has apologised to the Professional Footballers' Association for not appearing at their annual awards ceremony in London on Sunday, when the 20-year-old France international was voted Young Player of the Year. Arsène Wenger. the Arsenal manager, had to accept the award on his behalf. ■ Morocco has officially

announced its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006. England, Germany and South Africa are considered to be the strongest candidates and the winner will be declared next March. ■ West Ham United are to sell Javier Margas, their Chile defender. Margas, who was signed from Universidad Catolica for £2 million, suffered a knee injury early in his West Ham career and flew home to Chile for meatment amid rumours that his family were homesick. The big centre half has not returned and his West Ham career appears to be over after starting just three Premiership games.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Ballimore 8 Nansas City 4 Minnesola 6 Boston 5, Texas 6 New York Yankees 7, Arishem 1 Toronto 10, Cal-land 5 Cleveland 8: Seattle 1 Detroit 5, Post-poned: Chicago White Sox v Tampa Bay, NATIONAL LEAGUE: Flonds 8 Chago Cubs 0; Minvaulee 2 Los Angeles 3, Mon-treal 2 San Francisco 3 (10nns), Prilade-phia 1 Cincinnal to (10lnns), New York Mels 2 San Dego 6, Altanta 3 Pritsburgh 5; Hou-sion 11 Arrona 0, St Louis 7 Colorado 5

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Bos-lon 85 Detrot 92, Philadelphia 80 Cleveland 71 Toronio 98 Charlotte 105; Indiana 87 Orlando 88, New Jessey 75 Masm 95, Dallas 84 Vancouver 75, Sacramento 104 San Antonio 100, Seatle 90 Utah 85.

BOWLS

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Buswana

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Crosta 0 Italy

0 In Zagreb) FRENCH CUP: Semi-final: Nantes 1 Nimes 0

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Notifier ire-

INTERNATIONAL MATCHE NOTION IN-land 1 Canada 1 UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Germany 2 Scotland 1, reland 0 Swedenia NATION/WIDE LEAGUE: First divisional Crewe 1 Birstol City D Port Vale 1 Wallond 2

Bury 44 9 17 18 34 59 44 Oxford Utd 44 9 13 22 43 71 40 Bristol Caty 44 8 15 21 55 77 39

SECOND DIVISION: Brokol Rovers & Mi-wall 0: Colchester 2 Bournemouth 1 Lucin 1 Chesterled 0, Macclestedd 1 Stoke 2. Nors County 1 Wycombe 0: Wigari 3 Lin-coln 1, York 1 Blackpool 0.

PWDLFA 43 30 7 6 74 29 43 25 8 10 58 42

Tuesday's late results

Bractord

Ipswich Birmingham Waltord Bolton Wolves Shelf Utd Notwich Hudderstid C Palace Grimsty

Preston Man City

Wales 8 (133-107, in Selibe-Philiwe win senes 3-0)

2000 EM

FOOTBALL: WATFORD DEFENDER MAY FACE LEGAL ACTION AFTER OPPONENT SUFFERS DOUBLE FRACTURE Vale consider suing over tackle

BY STEPHEN WOOD

PORT VALE, the Nationwide League first division club, said yesterday that they were considering taking legal action over the tackle that left Stewart Talbot, their defender, with a double fracture of his

right leg.
Talbot, 25, suffered the injury after a challenge by Paul Robinson, of Watford, in their match at Vale Park on Tuesday night. Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, admit-ted that the tackle was "reckless and foolish" and Bill Bell, the Vale chairman, said yesterday: "We could sue the player personally, because the tackle on Talbot could threaten his livelihood and, as a club, it will not have helped our cause.'

Talbot underwent surgery yesterday and the club will talk to him to discover his views on the issue. Regardless of whether Vale pursue legal action, they have lodged an official complaint with the Football Association about George Cain, the match

In a strictly footballing sense, the repercussions of their 2-I defeat could also hurt Vale. Brian Horton, the manager, believed that the game paled into insignificance after Talbot was carried off - it certainly only served to increase the importance of their remaining two fixtures. Vale slipped to 21st position, above the relegation zone by virtue of the fact that they have scored more goals than Bury.

After Crewe Alexandra's win over Bristol City, the bottom club, on the same night, four teams are on 44 points. The denouement to the season is likely to be a fractious one.



Gradi has other priorities for Crewe Alexandra other than their light to avoid relegation from the first division

Vale meet Queens Park Rangers, the club one place above them, on Saturday, while Bury await at Gigg Lane on the final day of the campaign.

The attempts of Oxford United and Bristol City to stay up appear forlorn. Oxford must travel to Bradford City this weekend, with the Yorkshire club striving for the victory that would enhance their chance of earning automatic

promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. If three of the four clubs above them win at the weekend, defeats for Oxford and Bristol City will see them relegated.

While those clubs are panicking, it is a testament to Dario Gradi, the Crewe manager, that his club are sitting relatively pretty in nineteenth position. It is the first time that Crewe have been out of the bot-

tom four since October 17 and, with matches against Ports-mouth and Huddersfield Town to come. Crewe are genuinely optimistic that they will

Gradi, who has been manager at Gresty Road for nearly 16 years, is still considering the bigger picture. "I would rather that the new stand is built than us stay up," he said. "If we can get more people into

John Goodbody on new moves to restore a combined

complete their escape.

the ground, the finances will improve and we will have a better chance of keeping our best players." He did add, though, that it would be "nice" f Crewe could remain in the first division.

Bidding to join them are Wigan Athletic, who must cope with a daunting schedule of five games in 11 days if they are to qualify for the second division play-offs, although

the fact that the pitch at Springfield Park caused so many postponements during the winter means that they cannot

complain too much. Tonight, Wigan travel to Northampton Town, who are battling relegation. There-after, Wigan must play again on Saturday, Bank Holiday Monday, next Wednesday and the final day of the season, May 9. By that time, they hope to have made up the six-point gap that separates them from

Bournemouth, the team at

present occupying the final

play-off place. Bournemouth did themselves no favours by losing to Colchester United on Tuesday night while Wigan were beating Lincoln City. "Amateur-ish," Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, said of his team's performance. "Professional," was the way that Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager described his players' attitude to the situation facing them.

To collect enough points when you are playing almost every other day is difficult," Mathias said, "but I keep telling the players that we are in a great situation. We have our destiny in our own hands and if we keep playing like we have been doing, there is no reason why we cannot be in the first division next year.'

Cambridge United secured promotion from the third division with a 2-0 victory away to Rochdale on Tuesday, although Cardiff City and Brentford are still able to prevent them from winning the championship. "Promotion is not enough for me and it should not be enough for the players. either," Roy McFarland, the Cambridge manager, said yes-terday. "We are hellbent on going up as champions."

Cole heads parade of prospective stars of the future

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE final of *The Times* FA Youth Cup will be between Coventry City and West Ham United, clubs who last won the competition in the 1980s, although West Ham, the 1981 as recently as 1996, when they iost 4-1 on aggregate to Liver-

For Coventry City, a final against a London-based team will evoke memories of 1987, when they overcame Charlton Athletic only days before the first team won the FA Cup at Wembley. On Tuesday, leading Newcastle United 4-0 after the first leg of the semi-final at St James' Park, they recovered from a nervy start to go through 5-2 on aggregate.

The goal that killed off Neweastle's comeback was scored by Chukki Eribenne but the



Coventry player who has attracted most attention is Gary McSheffrey, 16, who became the youngest first-team player in the club's history vhen appearing as substitute at Villa Park. He scored a hattrick at Newcastle and. although he did not score in the second leg, his speed, con-trol and audacity gave the opposing defenders an uncomfortable evening.

McSheffrey is truly a local product, for his family home is no more than a long goal kick from Highfield Road. West Ham, in contrast, have two graduates from their academies in Australia, Richard Garcia and Michael Ferrante.

Not that the East London club is neglecting its own back yard. Bertie Brayley, born in Essex, is capable of making as well as scoring goals, while alongside Ferrante in midfield is the jewel in the Upton Park crown, Joe Cole, now with several FA Carling Premiership appearances un-

der his belt. West Ham, who play a fluid 3-5-2 formation, have been mightily impressive at home in the past two rounds, overrunning Arsenal and putting three goals past Everton, the

holders.

For the players, the pressures of an expectant home crowd - not to mention live television coverage — present new challenges, but ones that they will have to surmount if the final next month is to be the first of many big occasions.

Britain could bid for Olympic football gold football — they never quite perform to their full potential.



Havelange: letter of assurance over World Cup status

GREAT Britain could field a football team in the Olympic Games for the first time since 1960. The British Olympic Association (BOA) said yesterday that it was having talks with the Football Association in an attempt to field a combined team from the four

home nations in 2004. The news came as Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport. reiterated his call for a united Britain team to compete in both the Olympics and the World Cup. He said that this would ensure victory in the tournaments.

Banks said: "Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, is talking about the possibility of a British team in the Games and I would love to see that happen. But if we enter a team for the Olympics, we must find a way round the fact that we have four home countries." Simon Clegg, the BOA chief

home nations team in time for the 2004 Games executive, confirmed that there In 1996 there were huge had been meetings with the crowds for the tournament

FA "with a view to moving this forward". He added that there was a letter carrying an assurance from João Havelange, the former Fifa president, and Blatter; then the secretarygeneral of the governing body of world football, assuring the FA that if there were a Great Britain team at the Games it would not compromise the status of the individual nations at the World Cup.

Clegg said: "We believe that young footballers are being deprived of the chance of competing in the world's greatest sports festival. What people in this country do not realise is that for other nations, football is a major sport in the Games.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NYLL): Sammy College of the State of Conference: Plasburgh 2 Niew Jersey 4 (Dest-of-seven sense sed 2-2); Buffelo A Ottewa 3 (Buffelo wn sense 4-0), Western Conference: St Louis 1 Process 2 (Procests lead sense 3-1); Anaherm 0 Centrol 3 (Dentol wn sense 4-0); Ennotion 2 Dellas 3 (3 OT, Dallas win sense 4-0)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Meester 32 Rumney 31

and the United States is not a

traditional football country." The Olympic football event was first staged in 1900, when Great Britain, represented by Upton Park FC, beat France for the gold medals. However, as early as the 1920s, problems occurred over the definition of amateurism, Britain withdrawing because of a dispute over broken-time payments.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the tournaments were dominated by the state-funded communist nations, who usually fielded their World Cup teams. These included the great Hungary side that humiliated England 6-3 at Wembley in 1953 and then 7-1 in Buda-

pest in 1954 and first attracted international attention when they won the Olympic title in

In recent years, Fifa has agreed to restrict teams to choosing players who are aged under 23, with the exception of three individuals. Recently there have been suggestions that, in future, five over-age players might be allowed to take part.

In a newspaper interview. Banks was quoted as saying of the World Cup: "Scotland is one of the great football nations and have a fabulous qualifying record. But they have never got past the first round and, if you think about them in English terms, they are the West Ham of world

SPORT IN BRIEF

E RUGBY LEAGUE: Allan

Langer, the long-serving

Australia and Brisbane

Broncos scrum half, has blamed a loss of form, which

was evident against New Zealand last week, for his sudden retirement vesterday.

Langer, 32, who played 22

players who have been lucky

enough to enjoy a long career

is knowing when to end it."

BOWLS: Wales met tough

opposition in their third and

Selibe-Phikwe yesterday, but

managed to maintain their

winning sequence with an

8-4 victory. In the opening

Mascarenhas, who has

represented Botswana for

Thomas, the 1990 Welsh

the previous two matches

E CYCLING: Jon Clay is a

last-minute replacement for

the five-day Travelwise Tour

Lancashire) starting tonight

in what will be the last big

Prutour in London on May

23. Clay was selected to ride

withdrew because of sickness.

Union has decided to prevent

Yugoslavia from competing

in the European League or

European Cup next season

in the Balkans, A decision

has still not been made on

whether to allow Yugoslav

Republic in July. The

cancellation of the world

has led to the individual

event being moved to The

teams at the European youth

championships in the Czech

championships in Belgrade

because of the ongoing crisis

with the Linda McCartney squad in the Circuit des

domestic race before the

seven-day international

Mines this week but

III TABLE TENNIS: The

European Table Tennis

(formerly the Tour of

more than 20 years, fought

back from 13-20 to beat Will

champion, 25-24. Wales won

singles tie. Rav

12-0 and 10-2

final international match against Botswana at

times for Australia, said:

The toughest thing for

"No one can argue that Scottish football at its best is some of the finest in the world. But Scotland never make it past the group stage and England consistently fail to find that

However, the Scottish FA (SFA) immediately rejected Banks's call for a united Britain team. Jack McGinn, the SFA president, said: "Mr Banks is entitled to his opinion. However, there is no evidence to suggest that there is any support in the home countries for a Great Britain team.

extra push in the final stages.

As Britain they would win it."

An FA spokesman said: This is a concept that has been raised before but we do not see any prospect of it because the supporters value the identity of their individual countries too much."

GOLF

Olazabal tries to pick up pieces

FROM MEL WEBB IN TURIN

ONE supposes that the Fiat and Fila Italian Open will start today, somehow or another, but there is something about the Italian organisation for this venerable tournament that is at once disarming and totally, teethgrindingly, maddening, it was

ever thus. Some aspects of the tournament are staged with military precision, but others bring to mind the phrase involving a brewing establishment and an inability to arrange a drinking party in it. They say a thou-sand words with one shrug of their bespoke shoulders, they tell you that things will be different tomorrow, or the day after, or next year. And it never is: and they are utterly charming, and they soothe even the

most savage of breasts. This is the 56th Italian Open, which boasts two present holders of major championships - Lee Janzen, who won the US Open for the second time last year, and José Maria Olazábal, who took his second Masters title earlier this month - and they are backed up by two more who have seven titles between

One of them, sadly, is unlikely to be a contender for the silverware. Severiano Ballesteros is gracing this tournament with his presence, albeit a Seve with a slightly sore head as the aftershock of his brouhaha with wrong drops and their ilk at the Spanish Open last week continues to reverberate through the ranks. The other major man is

Bernhard Langer, and his per-formance is likely to depend on his state of health. Langer

has spent sizeable chunks of his career afflicted by some malaise or another, and when he is poorly, he is at his most dangerous. If he wakes up this morning with a virus, the rest had better beware.

Meanwhile, Olazábal, who said last week that if he had been split into a thousand fragments there would still not have been enough to go round after his momentous deeds in Augusta, is slowly retrieving a few of the pieces.

"I can't seem to get the adrenalin flowing again." he said. Things are pretty flat. The only way I'm going to get out of it is to keep playing. I'll will be fine as soon as I get into contention in a tournament again."

You never know, it could be this week, but one of his putative leading rivals is a visiting fireman who is capable of dousing even the hottest challenge. Janzen comes into the tournament, his first regular European Tour event since 1993, after being in contention deep into the last day of the Masters before letting things slide on the back nine to finish tied in fourteenth place.

He claims to be happy to be spending a week in Italy and, no doubt, is, but one wonders if he would be within an ocean of Circologolf today were he not contracted to one of the title sponsors. An unworthy thought? Maybe; but almost certainly true.

LINKS

Sky Sports 1, 1pm; Sky Sports 3, 7pm.

The state of the s

FOR THE RECORD

THIRD DIVISION: Derington 2 Brantlord 2; Halitax 1 Scurthorpe 0; Hantapool 1 Leyton Onent 0; Mansfield 0 Exeter 1; Rochdale 0 Cambridge Ltid 2; Rotherham 1 Berner 1

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hednes-lord 1 Kingstonian 2, Northworth 1 Cheiren-nam () Yeovil () Morecambe 1 SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division:

bord 1 Kingstonan 2 Northwart 1 Createrham 0 Yevoll 0 Morecambe 1
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division:
Cyclebank 2 Ayr 1
UEFA UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIP:
Group E England 2 Sweden 1
UNISOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Fickley 0 All micham 3, Garastocouph 3 Colwyn Bay 1 First division: Droylsdan 2
Bractord PA 0, Great Herrood 0 Stocksbrouge PS 0, Huchrall 1 Medicar 0, Raddille
1 Congleton 1, Winon 5 Gretter 1 League
Cup: Finals Salybrode 2 Gussley 1
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division:
Buston 2 Tamworth 1, Hastings 3
Crastey 0 Medianel division: Biowach 2
Wisbech 1, Condenord 2 Sourbodge 1,
Hunciley 3 RC Warwach 0, Reddilch 3 Sevesham 0, Shepshed Dynamo D Blakenal 0
Southern division: Brackley 1, Ashford 2,
Fisher 1 Tombridge Angels 0 Fiest 2
Rounds 4, Folkestone Invicts 2 Mangals 0
Hender 3 Revision 1 Revision 1, Nemport of W 4 Bashiley 0 League Cop: Finals
Sution Coldried 2 Cambridge Chy 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: Pramier division: Besmgsloke 2 Ayesbury 1, Beshop's Stortland 0
Henden 3 Boreham Wood 0 Chesham 0,
Bromiey 0 Stalbans 1: Endield 1-Storouldivision: Barron 1 Lubridge 0, Bognor
Roys 0 Leyton Pennant 1, Grays 1 Stanes
2 Outlood Cny 2 Romolor 2 Worthing 0
Leatherhead 1, Second division: Edgware
1 Wiventoe 2 Hennel Hempstead 6 Harlow
1, Thame 2 Woldingham 1: Toomig and Mecham 4 Hungerland 0 Windson and Eurithers
1 Union 2 Hennel Hempstead 6 Harlow
1 Thame 2 Woldingham 1: Toomig and Mecham 4 Hungerland 0 Windson and Eurithers
1 Condition 2 Hennel Hempstead 6 Harlow
1 Hensel Ry You'll Cup: Semi-finals,
second legic Coventy 1 Newcaste 2 (Co
entry vin 5-2 on agg, Everton 1 West Ham 10
FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier
division: Bornemans 0 Deny 1 Finn Hatts

LEAGUE OF WALES: Coventy's Finn Hatts

LEAGUE OF The Communication of the Store of the Store of the Store of the Harps Ham 1 Harpster of Deny 1 Finn Hatts

Cambran 0
FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premiur
division: Bottemans 0 Deny 1 Finn Harps

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford 0 Charlion 2. Portsrouth 2 Swindon 1. PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Botion 0 Burnley 0. Manchester City 3 Transece 2. Oxforbar 3 Grimsby 1, Sheffield Wed 1 West Bromwich 0 MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Amold 0 Budon 0; Gertoth 3 North Femby 2, Liversedge 0 Ecclesha 3, Seby 1 Denaby 1 NORTH WESTERN TRANS LEAGUE; First division: Alterton Collegies 0 Workington 2, Bootle 1 Newcaste Town 1, Chendie 2 Glossop North End 0, Rossendale 1 Leak CSOB 3.

die 2 Glossop North End 0, Rossendale 1 Leek CSOB 3.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Durston Federation 3 Chesies-te-Street 1 Essington 1 Morpeth 4

JEWSON LEAGUE: Pramier division: Ely 1 Woodbndge 1. Halstead 1 Lowestont 3

Histon 1 Des 0, Maldon 1 Harnech and Parkeston 0. Newmarket 0 Fakenham 2. Sudbury Town 0 Wrocham 2: Warboys 0 Great Yarmicuth 0

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymogram 0. Money Fields 3 Pontsmouth RN 2: Winborn 4 Fac Newbury 1

SCREWFOX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Lymogram 2 Bardsaple 3 Bideford 0: Bridgers 6 Westbury 1. Emore 2 Taurion 3. Mangotsfield 3 Yeovil TR 2: Melishern 1 Chipparham 0, Paulon 2 Bindport 0

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTES LEAGUE: Premier division: Darschald 2 Mangotsfield 3 Yeovil TR 2: Melishern 1 Chipparham 0, Paulon 2 Bindport 0

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTES LEAGUE: Premier division: Debotough 6

Bourne 2 N Spencer 0 Ford Sports 0. S and UHLSPORT UHITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier division: Decorough 6 Bourne 2: N Spencer 0 Ford Sports 0, S and 1 Corby 3 Wootlon 2, St Neots 2 Spaiding 0.

SAILING CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE-Lag 4b (Singapore to Seychelies, with miles to Infeth): 1, Marmerus (6 Sottars) 2070; 2, Anal IA Thomson's 2071; 3, Senca (8 Dean) 2072; 4, Antiope (6 Harns) 2083; 5, Chryso-tre (7 Hedges) 2085; 6, Thermorylas (M Tod) 2084; 7, Teeping' (N Perming) 2,132 SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Premier Leegue Trophy: Under-19: Semi-final: North-mberland 2 Durham 1 Lambton Trophy: Under-19: Final: Middlestrough 2 Hardepool 1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Fack-off 7:30 unless stated Second division Northampton v Wigan (7:45).... Nationwide Conference

Leek v Yeovii (7.45)

Leek v Yeovil (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Almotram v Entey. Stalybridge v Runcom. Whatby v Gussley. First division: Eastwood v Belger, Hudonall v Hamogaie. Matlock v Bradford Park Avenue; Raddiffe v Aliration. RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Alteristor v Chestram (7.45). Hamow v St. Albans: Enteid v Hendon. Pitrat division: Leyton Pentrant v Bestitamsted: Molessey v Chestrey. Whyleteste v Hachm, Wortmap v Grays Second division: Hemel Hampscand v Weethoe. Windsor and Elon v Wortman. Third division: Epsom and Ewel v Ford Lid. OR MARTERS LEAGUE: Southern division: Basteley v Ashrold, Hawant and Waterston: Respect v Month, and Respect v Basteley v Ashrold, Hawant and Waterston: Basteley v Ashrold, Hawant and Waterston: Basteley v Ashrold, Hawant and Waterston: Basteley v Ashrold, Hawant and Waterston: Off MATTERS LEAGUE: Southern s Stoke v Sunderland (7 0). LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Ouey v LEAGUE OF WALLES CONSIN CHARGE

BOTHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE:
Premier division: Hulbridge Sports v
Southend Manor.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE:
First division: Moneth v Consett
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Conseth u Greenwath WHISTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Pre-mier drivelone Crockernia v Greenwich MENERYA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE? Premier divisione Bertungsde v Berscioert Buelungstem Alheite v Narn-cey, Weitam Albey v Russio Narov. BANGS'S BREWERTY LEAGUE: Premier divisione Gornal v Westleds. Kingnon v Smathace Valsal Wood v Bandon. JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier divisione Haistead v Falschiam JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First divi-ation: BAT v Fareinem; Money Fields v Lym-ington and New Milton. UHLEPORTT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford Sports v Long Buckby
INTERLINK
EXPRESS ALLIANCE
Bridgmoth v Wednesfield, Sendwell v Old-bury, Willerhall v Shilhal
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Active P. Direct Learner Premare divisions Pauton vi Buraton NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Athenon Colleries v St Hel-ers; Maine Road v Remsbottom; Rossand-ale v Cutrero League Cups; Firab: Pres-cot Caples v Vizutral GM

CRICKET PPP county champtonship 11 0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum TAUNTON: Somerset v Yorkshire CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Hampshire . Seez v Warwickehire CHELMSFORD: Essex v Warwickehire CARDIFF; Giranorgan v Sussex SRISTOL: Giranorgan v Mitolesex CAMTERBURY: Kent v Derbysfere LEICESTER: Laccetershire v

Lancashire NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Surrey TRENT SRIDGE: Notinghamshire v SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire. Knowle and Dorridge: Warwickshire volutinghamshire. Wordestershire v Sonseshire. York: York: York: York: York: Statematter with the Court Southernsplace. Hampshire v Kenl. The Owal: Surrey v Essex.

RUGBY LEAGUE MATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pro-OTHER SPORT ROWING: Wingfield Sculls (Pulmey to Montalive, 10)

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embessy world champtonship: Quarter-finals: R CSuffiran (Eng) 13-9; M Witems (Melas) bit X Doheny (mp) 13-9; Letest positions: S Hendry (Scot) leads M Slevens (Wales) 11-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Eng) 17-5; J Higgms (Scot) leads S (ed. Sp. (Ed. S

SOUASH

LINZ, Austria: European team championship: Pirst qualifying round: Merc. Pool
A: Seotland 4 Switzertand 0 (P. Nicol bt R.
Donesch 9-3, 9-1, 9-1; M. Heath bt I. Harms
9-7, 9-3, 5-9, 9-5; J. White bt A. Holdsregger
9-0, 9-1, 9-0; S. Cowie bt Y. Del Tenno 9-5,
9-8, B. Finland 3 France 1. Pool 8: England 3 Germany 1 (P. Johnson lost to S.
Franz 9-2, 1-9, 9-3, 6-9, 6-9; C. Welter bt O. Howalsis 9-4, 9-1, 9-6, 1. Beachill bt F. Pool
10-6, 9-2, 9-0; M. Berrett bt S. Oppolar 9-5,
9-5, 9-1; Welter 3 Sweden 1 (A. Gough bt D.
Forsland 9-6, 10-9, 9-3, D. Evans bt A. Thoren
9-1, 9-6, 9-7; G. Toppings bt O. Jampieckar
10-6, 9-2, 9-7; G. Toppings bt O. Jampieckar
10-8, 9-2, 9-4; G. Dewise lost to P. Sosten
3-9, 5-9, 4-9; Pool C. The Nettertands 4 Ereal O. Pool D: Insland 4 Portugal 0 (D.
Ryan bt I. Fochs 9-0, 9-0, 9-1, P. Foster bt P.
Coetho 9-1, 9-2, 9-4; C. Colins bt R. Lima 9-4,
9-1, 9-4, J. Rooney bt F. Lima 9-0, 9-3, 9-0;
Pool E: Beigum 4 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Beigum 4 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Beigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Beigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Beigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Beigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 7 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 7 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
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Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4 C-sectil
Pool E: Seigum 6 Bulgara 0; Nally 4

ATLANTA: AT&T Challenge: First round:
M Rochiquez (Arg) to P Raffor (Aus) 7-6, 7-6.
S Grosjean (Fr) to C Marrik (LS) 8-7, 7-6.
6-1. G Canse (Arg) to S Diaper (Aus) 6-1,
6-3. S Koubek (Austra) to T Woodbridge
(Aus) 6-2, 7-6, A Martin (Sp) to 1 Labadze
(Go) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6, 1 Courser (US) to M Tilstrom (Swe) 8-3, 8-4.
MERRICK: Barvarian Massters: Second
fround: V Semoptadre (ii) to A Voince (Rom)
7-6, 7-5, A Pavel (Rom) to 10 Pescartu (Rom)
6-7, 6-0, 6-3, A Bersslegu (Sp) to 8 Karbacher (Gen) 8-4, 7-6, H Dreekmann (Gen)
to A Clamera (Fr) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.
HAMBURG GRAND PRDC First round: A
Glass (Gen) to A Benna (Gen) 6-4, 7-5, A
Kremer (Lus) to M Maruska (Austra) 6-2,
6-2, C Marthez (Sp) to J Abe (Gen) 6-3, 8-2
A Cootcar (Sa) to V Russon-Resous (Sp)
6-3, 7-6 Second round: V Williams (US) bi
M Senta (Sp) 6-3, 6-1.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 25pts £304.60.
22 £7 80, 21 £1.00. Four drawer £8.70. Five aways: £0.40 Eight homes: £37.60 LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £114.223.20, 23 £330.70, 22 £53.70, 21 £37.84 Eight homes: £50.75 VERNOMS: Treble chance: 24pts £13.75 Hard-time results: £2 £3.370.80 Four drawer: £1.55 Mirre bothes: £750.75 VERNOMS: Treble chance: 24pts £40.189.45, 23 £440.60. 22 £51.25 ZETTENS: Treble chance: £5ots 240, 189 45, 23 £440 60, 22 £51 25 ZETTERS: Treble chance: 25 pts 212.051 55, 23 £69 05, 22 £5 15, 21 £0 £5 Four aways (16 from 39 majches); Vod. Eight homes: C168 Four draws (non all 13 draws); £100. Easy stic £9 00. All-draws treble chance (from all 13 draws); 24pts £186 35, 23 £1 80

O'Sullivan accentuates the positive

IN HIS 16 years as a professional, John Parrott has seen more than most and he is deservedly respected both on and off the table. The affable Liverpudlian is also an admirer of the way that Ronnie O'Sullivan plays his snooker.

They say it's a travesty that Jimmy White has never won this, but it would be an even bigger travesty if Ronnie never got to lift the trophy." Parrott, beaten 13-9 by O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship, said yesterday.

"In my opinion Ronnie is the most naturally talented player ever to pick up a cue." he said. "The problem is that he's not focused all the time." In lesser events it is true that O'Sullivan often finds motivation, and the concentration that follows, difficult to generate, but that has never been a concern at the Crucible Theatre.

"I'm getting bursts when for four or five frames I feel Parrott had the momenunbeatable, so it's just a case turn, but, presented with the initial scoring opportunity in of minimising the bad the next frame, he suffered a spells," O'Sullivan said. "I kick on an otherwise routine know I can play better but I red to a middle pocket. It don't have to play my best. Grit, determination and atticaught the jaw, O'Sullivan tude are just as important." made 32 and eventually doubled the last red to repel O'Sullivan resumed yester-

day with an 11-5 lead, but Parrott's spirited challenge. correctly anticipated a Parrott backlash. In losing four I've ever had in my career. John is always so tough to of the first five frames of the concluding session. O'Sullibeat," O'Sullivan, defeated in van only potted two reds while the 1991 world champion compiled breaks of 54, 40, looks set to be Stephen Hen-97 and 93 in rallying to 12-9.

six of their previous eight meetings, said. His semi-final opponent

"That's as good a result as

By Phil Yates

dry, who, remaining unper-turbed by a burglary in his hotel room, carried a commanding 11-5 advantage into his third session against Matthew Stevens.

Most of Hendry's shoes and casual clothes were taken, as was a video recorder. but his cue, which lay in its case on the bed at the time of the intrusion, was ignored, along with his dress suits.

Hendry, whose cue was stolen and returned on payment of a £10,000 reward during the 1990 Grand Prix, had runs of 48, 60 and 81 in pulling away from Stevens. but his most important contribution was the outstanding 58 clearance with which he stole the fifteenth frame on

advantage over Stephen Lee. even though his standard of play dipped considerably from that which transported him to an 8-0 lead on Tuesday. The solitary highlight was a 124 break, his fifth century of the championship.

Lying in wait for the titleholder is Mark Williams, who, like O'Sullivan, endured some anxious stretches before converting an 11-5 overnight lead into a 13-9 win over Ken Doherty, the 1997 champion and runner-up last year.



 official tournament site TELEVISION: BBC1, 2.30pm. BBC2, 3.30, 6.45, 9.50pm

Vaulters rage at handling offence

pole vaulters get are halfway to heaven and ready to freefall back to earth? We can see them when they bend the pole. but it's not so easy to catch them if they bend the rules.

At the moment, the high-fliers of the pole-vaulting world are involved in a furious row over rules. The problem is that every so often pole vaulters pull off a trick that seems to be completely impossible.

While flying through the air, they will knock off the crossbar as they try to clear it and then, in a split second, they will replace it on its pegs. This technique is known as "Volzing" after Dave Volz, of the United States, who used to do it regularly.

At the world indoor champi-

onships at Maebashi, Japan, last month, Jean Galfione, of France, the 1996 Olympic champion, became only the fourth pole vaulter to clear six metres indoors, but he nearly missed out on his winner's medal and prize-money when

he was accused of Volzing. Jett Hartwig, the runner-ui and his United States team officials said that the Frenchman should have been disqualified because he put a hand on the bar. Hartwig reckoned that not only was he robbed of his title, but of the \$50,000 prize-

Volzing has been illegal for more than a year, but the rule

GARNIT POINT

From the edge of the New World,

a new, dry, spicy full-bodied red.



is a foul if a vaulter deliberately, with his hands or fingers, tries to replace a bar about to

Galfione admitted that he had touched the bar, but said that he had not done it deliberately. The judges agreed. "I feel sorry for Jeff," Galfione said. The law is stupid, but the law is the law."

International Amateur Athletic Federation is recommending that the rule be changed to state that any vaulter who places a hand on the bar will be disqualified, irrespective of whether they seem to be replacing it or not.

A lot of vaulters think that this is madness. Even Hartwig, the runner-up in pan, nas got away with nan dling the bar in the past. "Once, when I was young, the bar flew off and whacked me on the chest," he said, "So I think it's a natural reflex to put your arm out to block the bar." For free-spirited vaulters,

money that went with it. the no-hands rule stinks. "Should vaulters place their hands behind their backs or that outlaws it specifies that it maybe wave to the crowd in-

GARNET POINT



stead?" one asked, "We should get rid of this stupid rule unless we are also prepared to disqualify high jumpers who steady a trembling crossbar with their posteriors or their

Of all the events in modern track and field, the pole vault is probably the most spectacular. It is certainly the most dangerous. It is a glamour event combining the grace of the gymnast, the strength of a weightlifter, the daring of a skydiver and the precision of a

It is also ever-changing. It has been in the modern Olympics since the start in 1896, but its equipment and techniques have propelled it beyond the dreams of its pioneers. Next year. Sydney will see women vaulters in the Olympics for

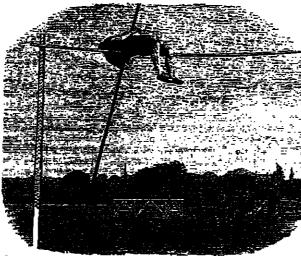
the first time. Right from the start, pole vaulters were up to some peculiar tricks. An account from the 1870s tells of a small acrobat who could beat any pole vaulter by the simple process of clambering up the pole like a monkey once it was poised

That we do know is that top English vaulters used to climb the pole by shifting their handgrip. One of these climbers, Tom Ray, who was seven times the AAA's champion. went to the United States in 1887 and won their national championship by clearing a height of 11ft %in. The Americans outlawed the technique. though the British still allowed it until after the end of World War I.

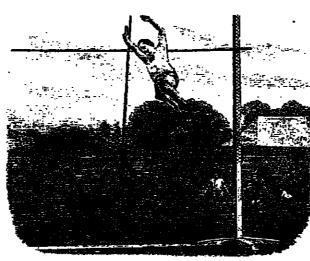
Those were the days of unforgiving poles made of hickory, ash or spruce, with a weighted iron tip. The vaulter would cross the bar in a sitting position and, if he was lucky, land on grass clippings or sawdust. Just after the turn of the century, they began to experiment with bamboo poles that were lighter and would flex

when planted in the ground. When the record reached 14ft in 1927, it was hailed as "man's ultimate height". Bamboo ruled the world of vaulting until metal poles appeared in the 1940s.

The advent of fibreglass poles in the 1960s saw records improve out of all recognition and today's king of the vaulters, Sergei Bubka, of Ukraine,



The technique of vaulting in its early years was dictated by the inflexible poles that the athletes had to use



soars regularly over man's new "ultimate height" of 20ft. To most spectators, the thought of sprinting down a runway before trying to plant a 17ft pole into a small hole to catapult skywards is terrifying. It is easy enough to identify with other events - such as running, jumping, throwing

and swimming - but pole vaulting is unfathornable. These daredevils who fly without wings are a rare breed. That they should be cool and skilled enough in mid-vault to reach out and stroke a trembling crossbar is breathtakingly athletic. Far from being penalised for this, they should be applauded. When you are hanging 20st in the air and attempting the impossible, you need all the help-

ing hands you can get. JOHN BRYANT | black queen is lost.

WORD-WATCHING Answers from page 46

ORCHIL (b) A red or violet dye prepared from certain lichens, especially Roccella tinctoria. PLICHTANKER

(a) The main anchor of a ship. From the Low German and then the Dutch plechtanker. the principal or chief anchor that holds a ship. POPVISIT

(a) A short, hasty, or unannounced visit in which one NOUTHETICAL (b) Monitory, warning. From the ancient Greek.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE l Rxg7! Kxg7 2 Rg3+ Kh7 (2 ... Kh8 3 Nxf7+) 3 Qc2+ and the TELEVISION CHOICE

Same space, worlds apart

BBC2,9pm

A big new series offering "a natural history of the A big new series oftening a side the fact that there is no consensus about how the whole thing started, let us be grateful for a guided tour of what there is out there, seen in ever-increasing detail since the first interplanetary probes were sent out. more than 40 years ago. The first film, Different Worlds, asks agenda-setting questions about the differences between the nine planets orbiting the Sun. Why are the outermost ones gaseous monsters and the innermost small and rocky? Why is the Earth's core made up of nickel and iron, and hunter's of metallic hydrogen? The series charms the eye even when boggling the mind with science.

Grand Designs Channel 4, 8pm

Kevin McCloud, an interior designer and author, presents an eight-part series about people who both design and build their "dream homes". He has a slightly abrasive manner but he is refreshingly straightforward about the couple featured tonight. Tim and Julia, who have a windswept clifftop size near Newhaven in East Sussex, want to build a home in just three months so that Julia's expected child can be born in the new house. How the "pathologically" optimistic (his own description) Tim and Julia cope with the inevitable obstacles and budget over-runs, face up to the shortcomings of their kit-house supplier and the effects of their own rather naive planning, makes a satisfying hour's viewing.

Stars and Cars Channel 5, 8pm

Henry Cole writes, directs and presents this light-hearted show, which is no more than a collection of interviews with the rich and famous, focusing on their cars. An entertaining session with Jamiroquai singer Jay Kay and two of his Ferraris at Goodwood is prefaced by a chat to Lord March, the circuit owner, in a prototype AC

"Kiss me, Cleoparra". "Sod off, Anthony!". A quote, not from Shakespeare, but from Nan Woodhouse's

two-hander. It is performed by Timothy West and

Julia McKenzie as hushand and wife and actors, who have drifted apart. He proposes that they should reunite to perform a pot-pourri of dialogues. Although his intention is to effect a

reconciliation, some of their off-stage exchanges are not designed to achieve that end. She: "You could play Humpty Dumpty". He: "You're a little too old for Alice". She: "But not for the Red Queen. Off with his head!". Encore could not have been

written by someone who knew nothing about the

thearre and the illusory creatures who populate it — and cannot stop acting, even off stage.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Chris Moytes 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Raddillie 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 10.00 The Global Update 10.10 John Peal, Musical treats 12.00 Andy Karshaw 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Richard Alinson 7.00 Bob Harris Country 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Take it Easy: California Cool (6/8) 9.30 The News Huddlines 10.00 Boogle-Woogle with George Melly (2/6) 10.30 Lynn Parsons. Favourite tunes 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breaklest 9.00 Nicky Campbell

5.00am Morring Heporis 5.00 Breaidest 9.00 Nicky Campibes 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ian Payne. The latest sports news and gossip 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Edita 7.30 Wembley, the Church of Footbet (4/4) 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops 9.30 Sportshop 10.00 Late Night Live. Presented by Bhan Hayes, including a sports round-up and The Financial World Tonight 1.00am Up All Night. News from around the world

6.00am The Big Boys Breeklast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Justice With Jacobs 1.00pm Anna Reebum 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 One to One with Andy Gray 8.00 Jackie Mason Live from New York 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breaklast Show 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00cm Nick

The Afternoon Play: Encore

Radio 4, 2.15pm

Jupiter and its nearest moon, Io, are featured in The Planets (BBC2, 9pm)

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designed by his father. After coaxing Jay Kay to tesigned by his fairles. After weaking say kay to talk about his sex life he is off for lunch with the Mercedes sports car-driving supermodel Caprice. Then follows banter with singer Richard Fairbrass of Right Said Fred fame, who is not too sexy to drive a Porsche, and two of Britain's star sprinters, who favour the MGF and the Ford Puma.

Sky One, 8.30pm

Said to be the most popular comic strip in the world, reaching 150 million readers daily, with spin-off bestsellers and its own World Wide Web Site (which attracts 4 million visits monthly), the cartoon by Scott Adams has now become an animated series which will surely emulate the success of The Simpsons and South Park. In fact, since Dilbert, though sophisticatedly cynical about the world, is never as "sick" as South Park, it has been broader armsel. It is from the store of the st much broader appeal. It is funny, literate, beautifully observed. For those who haven't seen the strip, it features nerdy Dilbert, an engineer for The Company, his dog Dogbert (much smarter than he is), his Scrabble-mad mother, Dilmom, colleagues Wally, Alice and Loud Howard, and The Pointy Haired Boss.

Tony Patrick

RADIO CHOICE

The Circle Radio 4. 11.30am

Elizabeth Baines's comedy series gets off to a promising start. It isn't every writer who in the space of a little under 30 minutes can juggle with three married couples, their respective children and their attempts to strike a balance between parenthood, neighbourhood and livelihood. Episode one lays down the groundplan for what will be the series's principal preoccupation — the plan to set up a babysitting circle on a housing estate where, as someone says, there isn't a child-minding teenager in sight. There seems to be little chance of this circle being squared. Especially good in a cast that includes Sherrie Hewson, are the little 'uns who are fated to be the catalysts in this experiment in mutualism.

Peter Davalle

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00mm The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Cerhury 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Insight 8.30 Assignment 9.00 World News 9.05 From Our Own Correspondent 9.20 Off the Shelf: Frankenstein 9.35 The Worls 10.00 World News 10.05 Understanding Cancer 10.20 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 10.50 Sports Round-Up 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Britain Today 11.48 World Business Report 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Assignment 1.00 World News 1.05 Outlook 1.45 Sports Round-Up 2.00 Newshour 3.00 World News 3.05 The Worls 8.30 Meridian Books 4.00 World News 4.05 Sports Round-Up 4.15 Westway 4.30 The Greenfield Collection 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Insight 8.00 Newdesk 6.30 Record News 8.45 Sports Round-Up 7.00 World News 7.15 Britiain Today 7.30 Assignment 8.00 World News 8.05 The Worls 8.30 Science On A Plate 8.45 Off the Shelf: Frankenstein 9.00 Newshour 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.20 Britain Today 11.30 Blues World 12.00 World News 12.05mm Outlook 12.45 Insight 1.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 2.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.30 World Sports Report 3.45 Insigh

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Nick Beiley's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Ferne Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents twourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Vieuxtemps (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romence 6.30 Newsnight. The latest heedlines and sport updates 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning Introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Brahms (Academic Festival Overture); Tchalkovsky (Romeo and Juliet); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A) 11.00 Mann at Night. A chance to wind down with the sound of ambient music 2.00em Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am Richard Alian 4.30 Phil Kennedy

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny, including a report from Birmingham on a community performance of Philip Glass's opera Salyagraha, about Gendhi 9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. John Foulds (April-England); 9.08 Corelli (Concerto grosso in C, Op 6 No 10); 9.21 Copland (Suite, Billy the Kid); 9.42 Mozart (Hom Concerto No 1 in D, K412); 9.52 Rubbra (Symphony No 8, Homage to Teilhard de Chardin); 10.17 Corelli (Concerto grosso in B flat, Op 6 No 11)
10.30 Artist of the Week Clarinettist Emma Johnson 11.00 Sound Stories Richard Beker looks at the history of the post of Master of the King's Music 12.00 Composer of the Week Durke Ellington 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Lown Blake, calio, Iwan Lleweilyrr-Jones, piano. Faure (Cello Sonata No 1 in D minor, Op 109); Schumann, arr Gendron (Three Romances, Op 94); Martinu (Cello Sonata No 2) (r) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic. Enescu (Romarian Rhapsody No 1: under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky); Graig (Piano Concerto in A minor: under Yan Pascal Tortelier); Enescu (Romarian Rhapsody No 2 in D; Symphony No 3 in C; under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky)
4.00 The Plano Piers Lane profiles Maurizo Polini 5.00 in Tune The legacy of Duke Ellington 7.30 Performance on 3 Live from the Festival Hall, London, Valdine Anderson, soprano, Susan Biokley, mezzo, Peter Bronder, tenor, BBC SO

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day With Pastor Lindsay Alien 5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill 6.00 Today With John Humphrys and James Naughte. Including Thought for the Day, with Indarjit Singh
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political round-up
9.00 Metvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Metvyn
Bragg to consider ideas and events which have
influenced the present ace

Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Blind Man on the Rampage What Colour is Maroon, Anyway? Peter White's perspective on life without sight, exploring the world through sound, touch, smell and the help of others (2/5)
9.45 (FM) Seriat: Nathanile's Nathanies's Nathanile's Nath

12.00 (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by John Weite and Liz

1.00 The World at One With Nick Clarke 1.30 Open Country With Richard Unidge 2.00 The Archers (r)

2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Encore By Nan Woodhouse.
With Julia McKenzie. See Choice
3.00 Call You and Yours: 0870 010 0444
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal Jeremy Irons speaks on behalf of the Preder-Will Syndrome Association (r)
3.30 Naming the Universe (4/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Namated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 Nice Work Presented by Alson Mitchell

under Martyn Brabbins. Thomas Ades (These Premises Are Alammed); Mexwell Davies (Symphony No 5); 8.05 Anglophiles. 8.25 Concert. Birtwistle, arr Berkeley (Love Cries, The Second Mrs Kong; Endless Parede)

Concert. Birtwestie, arr Berkeley (Love Cries, The Second Mrs Kong; Endless Parade)

9.20 Postscript What makes a great musical setting?

9.40 Smetana Three Poetic Polkas (Andras Schiff)

10.00 Music Restored Robert Holizogworth looks at some of the best Handel recordings

11.00 Night Waves in The Political Lives of Dead Bodies, anthropologist Katherine Verdery examines the lives of Bela Bartok and Prince Lase of Serbia. Paul Allen discusses her findings

11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton Invites author Claire Gordon, producer George Avakian and bassist Jimmy Woode to recall Duke Ellington's fife

12.00 Through the Night Including 12.05 Szymanowski (Prelude in C sharp minor); 12.25 Slbelius (Masonic Ritual Music); 12.50 Lithander (Divertimento No 1); 1.00 Rossan (Overture, The Thleving Magpie); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 tr A); Dvorak (Symphony No 7); 2.10 Eckhard (Menuet d'exaudet and Variations); 2.30 J.C. Bach (Quintet in F); 2.40 Hummel (Trumpet Concertoin E flet); 3.00-4.00 Schools: Music Workshop; 3.20 Let's Move); 3.40 Words Alivet; 3.55 Drama; 4.10 Listen and Write; 4.30 Rameau (Pieces de clavecin, Book 2); 4.55 Gal (Serenade for strings), 5.15 Thuille (Seadet in B flat); 5.45 Marais (Tombeau de M Lufly); Cavalli (La calisto, excerpt)

4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips meets the scientists who claim to have invented one of the world's most slippery surfaces
5.00 PM With Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 That Reminds Me Ned Shemin looks back on his ententaining career. Last in the series (6/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest events in Amoridge
7.15 Front Rew Arts round-up with Francine Stock
7.45 Postcards Nick Darke's drama, staming Diana Bernman, Emma Rice and Carl Grose, Broadcast earlier as nart of Woman's Hour (r) 4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips meets the

rilier as part of Woman's Hour (r) 8.00 United irishman Feergal Keane recalls the turbulent life of Wolfe Tone, the Protestant

tounding letter of Irsh republicanism (r)

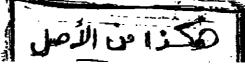
8.30 The Week in Westminster Michael Crick takes a look behind the scenes

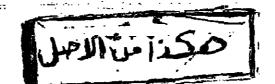
9.00 Connect Quentin Cooper investigates precision taming and its implications for agricultural

tarming and its implication in the first get and its important with Robin Lusting 10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lusting 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds Joanna David reads part nine of Susan Hill's novel 11.00 Late Night on 4; Do Go On Griff Rhys Jones. Graeme Garden and Melanie Hudson join Ainsley Elliot in a satirical discussion on travel (5/6) 11.30 (FM) Your Place or Mitne? Report on the Cariobean women who travelled to Canada to become domestic workers in the 1960s. Last in become domestic workers in the 1960s. Last in the series (5/5) (r) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political round-up

News Jam The Late Book: Biggest Elvis Ron Bergias reads part nine of P.F. Kluge's novel about times Elvis impersonators working in the Philippines

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. RM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 196 (12.45-5.55ml) CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory Bild Barry O'Keefe





Laugh, but in the privacy of your own home

are walking past one of those sex shops in Amsterdam and the window is full of moulded-latex-and-stainless-steel contraptions that are so bizarre that it takes you six minutes to figure out what they might be used for and a further ten to work out who might possibly want to use it for that purpose? That is much the same level of bemusement that fills me when confronted by a TV screen featuring Hale and Pace. Who could possibly find these two men lunny?

APRIL My

Worlds apan

And then, having returned from The Netherlands, you are sitting around a dinner table telling some friends about this scary sex aid you spotted in an Amsterdam shop window, and how you have been trying to work out what kind of person might use such a device, when suddenly your mouth goes dry: because it has occurred to you that somebody must be using these things - otherwise why make them? - and maybe that somebody is one of your dining companions. Possibly, it is this same person who also likes Hale

Nobody admits to using the spookier sex aids, just as nobody admits to finding Hale and Pace tunny. But there must be people who laugh at Hale and Pace in the privacy of their own homes. Why else would the BBC have squandered so much money on luring this pair of jokers (I'm not using this word in the same sense as they might use it of themselves) from ITV? Look around you now, in your Tube train or at the neigh-bouring desks in your office: statistically, some of these men and women must be closet Hale and Pace fans. You will never be able to avoid these people completely. Just

try to keep a safe distance. Just how dispiriting was the opening show of Hale and Pace's new variety series, h&p@bbc (BBCI)? So dispiriting that the Radio Times couldn't even bring itself to recommend it to readers. Maybe Hale and Pace are experimenting with a very avant-garde sense of humour, pitching themselves as the Surrealist Ionescos of BBC Light Entertainment by producing a comedy show that has no obvious comedy in it at all.

nd what's with that title (all lower case, note, which shows that Hale and Pace have done their homework and are therefore now as Web-smart as, say, the average nine-year-old)? Gareth was wondering that, too. "So it's not," said Gareth mockingly to Norman, hoping to draw the sting by getting in before us, "actually a vain attempt by two fat, middle-aged comedian blokes to look vaguely trendy and com-puter-aware? But if not that, then what was it? Maybe Hale and REVIEW



Pace don't mind handing their audience a stick with which to beat them, because this would at least imply that they have an audience. The show itself was a ragbag of

sweepings from those ideas rejected by other variety shows. In a pointless quiz, the competitors -Tony Blackburn, the Eurovision singer Kattina Leskanich, and the DJ Jonathan Coleman (the only redeeming presence in the show)

- answered questions that were neither interesting nor amusing. For a pop quiz, contestants from the audience had to listen to snat-ches of music while immersing their heads in a tank of water: was there any reason for this, other than the fact that the person who devised this game had the IQ of semolina? After that, for no apparent reason, a traffic warden from Islington appeared naked for us — a "Naked Civil Servant". But he s for the celebrity Stars in

wasn't a civil servant, was he? The "comedy" duo thought it would be amusing to go to Scot-land to see just how stingy the Scots are by entering shops in Perth and demanding that they be given things free. This left the shopkeepers with the choice of either looking tight-fisted, or of being in-timidated by two "comedians" and their film crew who - uninvited were recording the shopkeepers' reactions for the BBC. This seg-ment ended with us being allowed

to watch Gareth urinating from under his newly acquired, freebie kilt: maybe there was a punchline here, but I couldn't see it. Or maybe we could see it, but it was just very, very small. We all look forward to next week, when Hale and Pace might explore other stereotypes (blacks? Jews? Germans?) to similar hilarious effect.

A their Eyes in which Anthea "it's time for another image change" Turner confessed (only jokingly) to being an egomaniac. before regaling us in the guise of Shane MacGowan, the thought foremost in your mind was: who advises this woman on her PR? Compared with this, listening to Mark Urban tell us on Leviathan (BBC2) that the Good Friday agreement is not all that dissimilar to the Sunningdale agreement which

attempted power-sharing in North-ern Ireland 26 years ago - and

that after all these years nobody had come up with any new ideas really was funny. Or else it was depressing. I forget which. Sometimes the two are very similar.

Jamie Oliver, BBC2's Naked Chef. is moving closer to TV sainthood. Last week he cooked dinner for his sister's hen night. This week he babysat his young cousins while preparing ravioli and a praline semi freddo for their parents' dinner. Here is a search for a new TV formula that has paid off: the chatting to an unseen interviewer, the frantic hand-held camera: the handsome, unfussy, 23-year-old chef whose descriptive vocabulary runs out after pukkah. wicked, lovely jubbly, and really funky: the cooking for photogenic relatives. It could all so easily have gone wrong. Oliver clearly has a bright television future, just so long as he resists the temptation to make guest appearances on Hale and Page.

8801

6.00am Business Breakfast (91097) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (37726) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (9461542) 9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T)

10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (1649946) 11.00 News; Weather (T) (5322146) 11.05 City Hospital (T) (9532875) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (5390338) 12.00 Going for a Song (7188225) 12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (4938702) 12.55 The Weather Show (1) (11022900) 1.00 News; Weather (T) (30813) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (58460252) 1.40 Neighbours ((7) (95675691)

2.00 Through the Keyhole (1) (7271) 2.30 Snooker: World Championship The opening session of the first semi-linal. Commentary by Clive Everton (7055146) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8912146) 3.45 Chucklewood Critters (2909184) 4.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks (1753368)

4.20 Julia Jetyil and Harriet Hyde (5389558) 4.35 Goosebumps (7900691) 5.00 Newsround (5949788) 5.10 Miami 7 5.33 Rewind (T) (418287)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (1) (731894) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (900) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (252) 7.00 Watchdog: On the House Adrian Chiles visits the homes of Lottery winners, and travels to a housing estate in Glasgow with a rather unusual problem (1) (1287)

7.30 EastEnders (T) (436) 8.00 Animal Hospital (1) (4707) 8.30 Supernatural: The Unseen Power of Animals (T) (6542) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (T) (1078) Conservative party (T); Weather (719349)



quarrelsome foursome (9.35pm)

9.35 Men Behaving Badly Tony decides to dump his old girttriend in levour of Debs. Comedy senes, with Martin Clunes, Neil sey, Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash (r) (T) (724146)

: Tar ...

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10.00 They Think It's All Over (T) (88374) 10.30 The Frank Skinner Show w (f) (18542) 11.00 Question Time (1) (809184) 12.05am Hurry Sundown (1967) Melodrama

locusing on the economic and racial tensions affecting a small community in post-Second World War America. Michael Came stars. Directed by Otto Preminger (35729127)

9.00am-9.45 Election Call (1/4) (9461542) 6.30-7.00 Wales Today (T) (252) 9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (T) (719349)

2.20 Weather (5111092)

2.25 BBC News 24 (86458769)

n-2.25 News (T) (5111092)

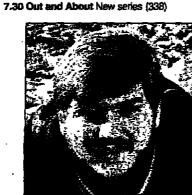
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show:

Noddy in Toyland (39184) 7.30 Top Cat. (8411417) 7.55 Blue Peter (8769610) 8.20 Dastardly and Muttley (8474981) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (3957900) 8.50 Tales of Aesop (3953184) 8.58 Tales from the Net (1595691) 9.00 Job Bank (4575829) 9.10 Watch Out (9014320) (45/3d29) #10 Watch (78/57436) 9.45 Come
Outside (7845691) 10.00 Children's
BBC: Teletubbles (84146) 10.30
Storytime (3400436) 10.45 The
Experimenter (9922417) 11.05 Space Ark (5343639) 11.15 Zig Zag (1395981) 11.35 Pathways of Bellef (2753900) 11.50 Susanne (2747349) 12.10pm The Geography Programme (7297504) 12.28

Tales from the Net (9766097) 12.30 Working Lunch (24691) 1.00 Children's BBC: Just So Stories 1.10 The Countryside Hour (r) (1204233)

2.10 Wildlife Showcase (r) (1) (89376981) 2.40 News; Weather (T) (8787233) 2.45 Westmingter (T) (5533165) 3.25 News; Weather (T) (5273271) 3.30 Snooker: World Championship Semi-final coverage (741233)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine A Bajoran village is attacked by a mysterious destructive energy force (r) (T) (660184) 6.45 Snooker: World Championship The second semi-final (311953)



Ray Mears encounters danger on lia's Coromandei coast (8pm)

8.00 Ray Mears' World of Survival The survivalist learns to fish with the people of the Vadabalija tribe (r) (1) (2349) 8.30 Top Gear (T) (4184)

9.00 CHOICE The Planets New series exploring the enigmas of the solar system (T) (342252) 9.50 Snooker: World Championship Semi-final coverage (319981)

10.30 Party Political Broadcast By the Conservative party (102558) 10.35 Newsnight (T) (541788)

11.28 Tales from the Net (T) (979962) 11.30 Wildlife on Two (r) (1) (257252) 11.55 Holiday Weather (766610) 12.00 Desnatch Box (53905) 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: OU: Insights into Violence (32924) 1.00 Which Body?

(92943) 1.30 The Psychology of Addiction (73914) 2.00 Further Education: Psychology (61635) 4.00 Teaching Film and Media: An Ideal Husband (98059) 5.00 Business and Training: Web Wise (3706740) 5.45 Open University: Women at the Wire (2210498) 6.10 Out of the Melting Pot (4982301)

WALES 7.30pm Ray Mears' World of Survival (r) (T)

(338) 8.00-8.30 Shop Talk (2349) 10.30-10.35 Party Election Broadcast (102558)

HTV WEST 5.30am ITV Morning News (81977) 8.00 GMTV (2304252) 9.25 Trisha (T) (3057523)

10.30 This Morning (T) (49664691) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (7527875) 12.30 ITV News; Weather (T) (2221829) 12.55 Shortland Street (1217707)

1.30 Home and Away Donald has doubts about his marriage (T) (16617233) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5575691) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2571146) 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5272542)

3.15 HTV News (T) (5271813) 3.20 CITV: Marsy (5278726) 3.25 The Adventures of Dawdie (5268349) 3.35 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (5015707) 3.50 Lavender Castle (5020900) 4.05 Hey Amold! (7588523) 4.30 Children's Ward (875)

5.00 Home and Away (r) (1) (3691) 5.30 Pleasure Guide (T) (455) 5.58 HTV Weather (319962) 6.00 HTV News (T) (697252) 6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative Party (943078) 6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (943078) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (320)



Kathy (Malandra Burrows) confronts Chris (Peter Amory) (7pm)

7.00 Emmerdale (T) (3455)

7.30 A Consuming Passion An insight into the work of Orchard Lodge near Taunton, one of the UK's few units for youngsters 8.00 The Bill The jury retire to consider their

verdict on DS Boulton (f) (1184) 9.00 The Last Train The survivors discover a self-sufficient community in the barren countryside. Part five of the apocatyptic drama series, with Nicola Walker and Christopher Fulford (5/6) (T) (1320)

10.00 Tonight with Trevor McDonald Safety tears surrounding airbags (T) (1707) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (468146) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (353875) 11.30 A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy From Deliers Whari in Taunton (T) (57964) 12.00 Public Morals (r) (7884498)

12.35em The Jerry Springer Show American talk show (1) (9712059) 1.20 Cyber Cafe (r) (1743045) 1.50 Trainspotters (7/13) (2661295) 2.45 Box Office America (4541214) 3.10 Cybernet (84906214)

3.40 Murder, She Wrote (2300363) 4.30 Coach (r) (83378479) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3818672) THO WALES

As HTV WEST except: 5.30pm-5.58 Crazy Creatures (T) (455) 7.30-8.00 The Insiders (3/4) (504) 10.00 The Ferret (94962) 10.30-11.00 The Sharp End Investment in public transport (88310) 11.30-12.35 Tonight with Trevor McDonald (T) (143765)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (T) (9745504) 12.55 Home and Away (1) (2126320) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4307436) 2.10-2.40 Echo Point (1) (5271813) 5.30 Shortland Street (455) 6.00-6.25 Central News at Six Weather (T) (697252) 7.30-8.00 Our House (T) (504) (17 (307) 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (1) (353875) 11.30-12.35 The Wright Verdicts (143165) 1.20am Jenny (5448653) 1.45 Swift Justice (r) (8026450) 2.35 Cybernet (4527634) 3.00 ITV at the V98 Festival (r) (3083450) 3.55 Central Jobfinder '99 (T) (6953740) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9072818)

WESTCOUNTRY As HTV West except. 12.15pm News (T) AS HIV West except. 12.15pm News (1) (7527875) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations 12.55-1.25 Lunchtime Live (7) (2126320) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4307436) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (89370707) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (5271813) 4.59-5.00 Birthday People (7691928) 5.30 Dig it With Den (8/18) (455) 6.00-6.25 Westcountry Live: Weather (T) 6.00-6.25 Westcountry Live; Weather (1) (897252) 7.30-8.00 A Foreign Affair (504) 11.20-11.30 News (1) (353875) 11.30-12.35 Storytellers: Rod Stewart (143165)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian ews; Weather (7527875) 5.30 Grass Roots (I) (455) **6.00-6.25 Meridian Tonight** (I) (697252) **7.29 Meridian Weather** (169829) 7.30-8.00 Meridian Focus (1/4) (504) 11.20 Meridian News; Weather (1) (244962) 11.35-12.35 Renegade (r) (688078) 5.00am-6.30 Freescreen (1) (55924)

Section ...

As HTV West except: 12.14pm Anglia Air Watch (9765368) 12.15-12.30 Anglia News Watch (9765368) 12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (7527875) 5.24 Anglia Air Watch (7573207) 5.25-6.00 About Anglia (7191310) 6.00-6.25 Anglia News (1) (697252) 7.30-8.00 Craven's Collectables (1) (504) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (977504) 11.20 Anglia News (1) (353875) 11.30 Crime Night (867788) 11.45-12.00 The Ticket (r) (888271)

28430523) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (69470267) 9.00 Ysgolion: History in Action (67627252) 9.20 Geographical Eye (67614788) 9.40 Science In Focus special: Electrons at Play (35279287) 10.00 Middle English (54155146 10.20 Fourways Farm (23278743) 10.30 Scientific Eye (71091639) 10.50 Express (15363639) 11.00 The Number Crew (47938639) 11.10 Lisa Looks Back (94142959) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (90002981) 12.00 Caroline in the City (1) (1) (63848349) 12.30pm Sesame Street (f) (93739417) 1.00 Planed Plant (f) (69377146) 1.30 Little Gems (85968726) 1.40 FILM: Arabian Adventure (T) (38594610) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (99783900) 4.0 0 Fifteen-to-One (1)

(99779707) 4.30 Ricki Lake (1) (99768691) 5.00 Planed Plant (41140504) Countdown (1) (99782271) 6.00 Party Election Broadcast (70501875) 6.05 Newyddion 6 (T) (70500146) 6.10 Heno (T) (39004436) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1) (41160368) 7.30 Newyddion (1) (99769320) 8.00 Ti Di Gweld? (1) (41146788) 8.30 Teulu'r Mans (r) (T) (41158523) 9.00 She's Gotta Have It (T) 11.50 The 11 O'Clock Show (67730455) 12.20am The Adam and Joe Show (T) (15744818) 12.50 Prey (T) (86343030) 1.50 Diwedd 11.45-12.00 The Ticket (888271)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5400691) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (20436)

9.00 Schools: History in Action (9010504) 9.20 Geographical Eye (9030368) 9.40 9.20 Geographical Eye (9.030,368) 9.40 Science in Focus Special: Electrons at Play (7401184) 10.00 Middle English (3394252) 10.20 Fourways Farm (7766542) 10.30 Scientific Eye (9927962) 10.50 Express (8143875) 11.00 The Number Crew (5339436) 11.10 Lisa Looks Back (6931829) 11.25 Schools at Work (9622875) Powerhouse (8981)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (91875) 12.30pm Bewitched (1) (22287) 1.00 Suddenly Susan (23523)

1.30 The Three Stooges The trio are mistaken for reporters (r) (95684349) 1.50 In a Lonely Place (1950) A jaded scriptwriter who is suspected of murder becomes involved with a young film star. Thriller, starring Humphrey Bogart and Giona Grahama. Directed by Nicholas

Ray (21055523) 3.30 Collectors' Lot Debbie Thrower meets a ian of stainless steel teapots (T) (726) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (233)

4.30 Countdown (T) (7007558) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9772691) 5.30 Pet Rescue Presented by Wendy Turner-Webster and Mark Evans (T) (487) 6.00 Friends (r) (T) (610)

6.30 Holtyoaks Ty asks Lucy for help (T) (962) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (956813) 7.55 Margaret Thatcher. Where Am I Now? Steve Bell's animated look at the Thatcher years (856523)



construction of a clifftop home (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE Grand Designs Author and designer Kevin McCloud follows the progress of people designing

their dream homes (1/8) (T) (9726) 9.00 Dispatches Disturbing report on the illegal trafficking of women throughout eastern Europe and southeast Asia. Promised new lives and decent jobs, the girls frequently end up as prostitutes in Bntain (T) (9962)

10.00 NYPD Blue The team investigates the murder of an elderly couple, while Russell and Kirkendall meet Delores in an unexpected place (T) (9349)

11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (9233) 11.30 Ally McBeal Ally defends a doctor

accused of unethical practices and squares up to Georgia in the krckboxing ring. With Calista Flockhart (66436) 12.30am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (6093127) 1.25 Vids Offbeat video review (3161943) 2.00 Late Toon: Fight Animation (5124566) 2.05 NYPD Blue The detectives investigate a union leader's death (r) (T) (7798585)

3.00 The Great Ziegfeld (1936)
Oscar-winning musical biopic of master showman and Hollwood impresario showman and Hollywood impresario Florenz Ziegfeld. William Powell stars in the title role, with Myrna Loy. Directed by

Robert Z. Leonard (19076634)

CHANNEL 5 6.00am 5 News and Sport (5265813) 7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (2295829)

7.30 Milkshake! (2083287) 7.35 Muppet Bables; 5 News (4334900) 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8114233) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (8113504)

9.00 The Roseanne Show (r) (5827542) 9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (8235875) 9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful Katie confronts Grant (T) (8061894)

10.20 Sunset Beach Cole tries to keep Annie from running away (T) (4527455) 11.10 Leeza (3282320)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8117320) 12.30pm Family Affairs Pam thinks she is going mad (r) (T); 5 News Update (8580879) 1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Studio

debate on everyday issues (4185981) 1.50 Heat Wave Drama about a young couple who are forced to flee the city during an intense heatwave. With Ben Murphy, Bonnie Bedela, Lew Ayres and David Huddleston. Directed by Jerry Jameson;

5 News Update (28234788)
3.15 The Iron Mistress (1952) Western adventure based on the life and loves of Jim Bowie. Alan Ladd stars. Directed by Gordon Douglas (7409788)

5.15 5 News (T) (59512788) 5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards A traveller's

guide to Jamaica (r) (59526981) 5.30 100 Per Cent (6412184) 6,00 5 News; Weather (T) (6419097)

6.30 Family Affairs Clive attempts suicide (T); 5 News Update (6400349) 7.00 The Peosi Chart Music by TO, Westlife and Dee'tah, who performs her new single El Paradiso Rico (2429233)

7.30 Wild in the USA Insight into the lives of the red-tailed hawk and the prairie falcon as they compete for food and territory (T); 5 News Update (6499233)

8.00 CROICE Stars and Cars Motor and iffestyle show, presented by Henry Cole (176) (T) (2438981)

8.30 Viva Espana The lap dancers divulge their tactics for dissuading enthusiastic punters, while Jim Bunyon decides to cheer himself up with a visit to Bunvol's customers gear up to perform their own version of The Full Monty: 5 No (2424788)

9.00 Moment of Truth: Cradle Conspiracy (TVM 1994) A teenager alarms her parents by embarling on a dangerous relationship with a involved in the blackmarket baby business - and then announces that she is pregnant. Starring Dee Wallace Stone, Danica McKellar, Kurt Deutsch and Carmen Argenziano. Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont, 5 News Update

(49562455) 10.50 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment (5511146) 11.25 Red Shoe Diaries Tales of erotica from the streets of Rio (1541875)

12.00 ice Hockey NHL Richard Orlord and Todd Macklin present the Conference quarter-finals (9089295)

4.30am European Motorsport (4072158) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6209363)

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7.00am Count Duckule (73542) 7.30 Codolla (69349) 8.00 Pokemon (54368) 8.30 Hollwood Squares (53639) 8.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (63753) 10.00 The Oprah Writey Show (58239) 11.00 Guillyt (78097) Wintey Show (58233) 11.00 Gully (7897) 12.00 Jerny Jones (51146) 1.00pm Mad About You (72813) 1.30 Jeopardy (74610) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (36523) 3.00 Jerny Jones (76504) 4.00 Gully! (85539) 5.00 Siar Trek: Deep Space Nine (6320) 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (7362) 6.30 Draem Team (1934) 7.00 The Simpsons (4349) 7.30 The Simpsons (768) 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (3067) 8.30 Dieter. See Television Choice (2504) 9.00 Friends (84523) 9.30 ER (2504) 9.00 Friends (84523) 9.30 EF (54900) 16.30 Veronica's Close 11.00 Dream Team (96368) 11.30 Star Trek, Deep Space Nine (35165) 12.30em Chris Evans (29672) 1.30 Law and Order (64362) 2.38 Long Play (9017030) SKY BOX OFFICE

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Titanic (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Etc Down Below (1997)

SKY PREMIER 3.10am The Directors The Films of Robert Zemeckis (8704891) 6.05 A Stranger to Love (1998) (49573184) 8.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982) (25417) 10.00 Satman and Robin (1987) (84097) 12.00 A Stranger to Love (1996) (48368) 2.00pm Kiss Me Goodbye (1982) (18078) 4.00 Major League (1986) (67379430) 5.55 Behman and Robin (1987) (9272190) 8.00 Hollywood Bucz (6707) 8.30 Head Above Water (1986) (966911 10.00 Conspiracy Theory (1997) (7647542) 12.20am The Arrival (1996) (376943) 2.15 Criminal Law (1998) (38143032) 4.20 The Directors, Alan Pakula (862108) 5.10am The Directors The Films of Robert SKY MOVIEMAX

(81419417) 9.00 UHF (1989) (47639) 17.00 Friendship's Field (1996) (27243) 1.00 Snowboard Academy (1997) (4745) 3.00 UHF (1989) (3988) 5.00 Friendship's Field (1996) (3978) 7.00 Snowboard Academy (1997) (55146) 9.00 The Three Lives of Karen (1997) (88906) 11.00 Lethul Wespon II (1989) (324639) 12.55am The Hestverty Kid (1985) (107180) 2.30 Adams His Song Continues (1986) (867082) 4.05 When Husbands Chest (1748 1997) (852721)

SKY CINEMA 4.00pm Fether Brown (1954) (7727981) 8.00 Texan's Fight For Life (1958) (9059702) 8.00 The Mackinson Man (1973) (1930287) 10.00 The Towering (1974) (84394417) 12.45 Treers, 100 Moves (5024479) 1.40 The Great Lover (1949) (23931276) 3.05 The Woman in Green (1945) (30768566) 4.15 The French Line (1954) (3459059)

FILMFOUR 8.00pm Two Solutions for One Problem (1938368) 5.05 Through the Ofive Trees (1994) (50076417) 8.00 Legends of the Pall (1994) (2084820) 10.15 Kalifornia (1995) (7650556) 12.15 km Roadmoors (TVN 1983) (942301) 1.50 From Dusk Till Deem (1996) (6577011) 3.35 Gallivard (1996) (7553721) 5.25 Smart Alebert (1996) 6.00 Close

9.00pm Consigher (1991) (25603897) 11.15 Mister Buddwing (1966) (97501417) 1.15em Penetope (1966) (71544740) 3.00 Consigher (1991) (84091585) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

7.00em Sports Centre 7.15 Wresting 8.15 You're On Say Sports 9.00 Record News 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style 19.00 Football 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style 19.00 Football 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style 12.00 Sports Contre 1.00 Live European Tour Golf 5.00 Wrestling 8.00 Sports Centre 6.30 Crucket 7.00 Football League 8.00 Wrestling 11.15 You're On Say Sports 12.00 Sports Centre 12.15em World of Croket 12.45 Fulbol Mundaid 1.15 Football League 2.15 Rugby Club 5.15 Sports Centre 5.30 Close

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Sports Contre 7.45 Racing News 8.15

Unbelievable Sports 8,45 Sports Centre 9.00 World Pool League 10.00 Golf Edm 1.00 Australem Rally Championship 1.30 Ringsde 3.00 International Football 4.00 International Football 5.00 Football League Review 8.00 What a Weekend 8.30 Inside the PGA Tour 7.00 Rugby Club Special 10.00 US PGA Golf 12.00 Formule Palmer Audi 12.30em Formula Thee 1.00 Trans World Sport 2.00 What a Weekend 2.30 LS PGA Golf 4.30 Sports Centre 4.45 Close SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Wresting Federation: Superstars 1.00pm Fish TV 2.00 Sports Supersars 1.300 Unbelevable Sports 3.30 Plugby League World 5.00 Survival of the Fitzes 5.30 Formula Three 8.00 Formula Patmer Auf 6.30 Futbol Mundal 7.00 European Tour Golf 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Footbal Scrapbook 11.30 Close EUROSPORT

7.30mm Motor Racing 8.30 Football 10.00 Football 12.00 Start Your Engines 1.00pm Motocross 1.30 Mountain Bilding 2.00 Ternis 3.30 Live Formula 3000 4.15 Football 5.00 Racing Line 7.00 Surro 8.00 Boxing 9.00 Football 11.00 Racing Line 12.00 Motocross 12.30mm Close

7,00em Crossroads 7,30 Neighbours 7,55 EastEnders 8,30 The 8& 9,00 The Bill 9,30 EastEnders 8.30 The 8th 8.00 The 8th 9.30 The House of Elott 10.30 Rhoda 11.00 Dates 11.35 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00 Dates 2.56 The 8th 3.25 The 8th 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Rhoda 5.00 Dangerfield 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Some Mothers Do 'Ave Tem 7.40 Last of the Summer Wine 8.20 Dad's Army 9.00 Only Fools and Horses 9.40 FBLNb The Jerit (1979) 11.30 The 8th 12.00 The 8th 12.30 The 8th 12.30 The 9th Young Ones 2.05 The Young Ones 2.45 Shopping with Screenshop CPD ANADDA DLILE GRANADA PLUS

6,00am Wish Me Luck 7,00 Plus On Plus

7.30 The Odd Couple 8.00 Families 8.30 Mind Your Language 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdate 10.00 Upstairs, Dourstairs 11.00 Charle's Angels 12.00 Classic Coronation Street 12.30 pm Emmerdate 1.00 Mind Your Language 1.30 Me and My Gri 2.00 Upstairs, Dourstairs 3.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Charle's

4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Charle's Appels 6.00 Emmerdale 6.30 Classic

Dilbert stars with his dog, Doghert, in the animated spin-off of the popular cartoon strip (Sky One, 8.30pm)

Coronation Street 7.00 The Professionals 8.00 Benny Hill 9.00 The Sweeney 10.00 Halle and Pace 10.30 The Corrections 11.00 Granada Men and Motors CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm Wher's Cooking? 5.30 Gndlock 6.00 Animal SOS 6.30 Cur House 7.00 Boon 6.00 Cut and Run 6.30 Brds Ot a Feather Special 8.00 St Elsewhere 10.00 A Difficult Woman 11.00 His Street Blues 12.00 Tales of the Unexpecial 12.30am Content 1.00 Close Gridlock 1,00 Close

DISNEY CHANNEL 8.00mm Gummi Beers 8.25 Classec Toons 6.35 Talespin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Dalmatians 8.00 Goof Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Winne the Pooh 9.00 The Adventures of Spot 9.07 Annual Shell 9.17 Pocket Dragon Adventures 9.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 9.55 The Toothbush Family 10.00 Bite Sec 10.12 Rose and John 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PS and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.07 pm Animal Shell 12.17

Pockel Dragon Adventures 12.30 Beer in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 Bite Size-1.12 Rose and Jim 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Orier 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00 The Little Mermad 3.30 And Anack 4.00 I 10: Detimaters 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Ann 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 FILMS. Sword in the Stone (1963) 8.20 Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show 9.10 Dinosaura 10.00 Home Improvement 10.30 The Microsian 4 the Poly Colon 11.50

he Wonder Years 11.00 Bassic Toons 12.00 Close **FOX KIDS NETWORK**

S.00am Power Rangers Turbo 8.55 Soderman 7.20 Oggy 7.30 Denns and Grasher 8.00 Herb Turtles: The Ned Materion 8.26 The Incredible Hulk 8.50 Iron Man 9.15 Fariastic Four 9.40 X-Men 10.05 Cesper 10.30 Oggy and the Cocksoaches 10.55 Epk/Suravegoriza 11.05 Bobby's World 11.30 Life with Loue 11.55 Home In Reni 12.20pm The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs 12.30 Donkey Yong Country 1.00

Mowgli The New Adventures of the Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Venture 1.55 The Incircible Hulk 2.20 Iron Men 2.45 Fantasiic Four 3.10 X-Men 3.30 X-Press 3.35 Spiderman 4.00 Goosebumps 4.25 Hern Tunles The New Matation 5.00 Dennis and Grasshes 5.30 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donkey Kong County 6.30 Eek/Stravaganza 6.55 Opgy and the Cockroaches 7.00 Close NICKELODEON

6.00em Externe Ghostbusters 6.30 Bruno the Nd 7.00 CalDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Hey Arnold' 8.30 Daug 8.00 Children's BBC 10.00 Wimze's House 10.30 Papa Beaver Stories 11,00 The Magic School Bus 11,30 PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness 12,00 PB Beat/Annel Antick/Family Ness 12.00
Bugstis 12.30pm Blue's Clues 1.00
Banenas in Pylames 1.30 Frankin 2.00
Paddington Beat/Lozie's Librany/Fortland
BM/Mr Meryhor the Engine 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.00 Doug 4.00
Angry Beavers 4.30 Rugstis 6.00 Sister
Suler 8.30 Kenen and Kel 8.00 Satoma the
Teenage Which 6.30 Alex Mack 7.00 Close BRAVO

8.00pm Mariel Law 9.00 Cops 9.30 The Late Lounge 10.00 Editeme Championship Wrasiling 10.30 Erolic Conlessions 11.00 PLM: Plebon (1986) 1.30em The Late Lounge 2.00 Mariel Law 3.00 FILM: Upl (1976) 5.00 Euteme Championship Wrestling 5.30 Cops 6.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY

Drop the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? 10.00 Frasier 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Seinleid 11.30 Spin Cry 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman 1.00em Garry Shanding's Show 1.30 Nurses 2.00 Almost Perfect 2.30 Tibs and Fibs 3.00 Mort and Mindy 3.30 Abbott and Costello 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: Spm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30mm Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Block Rogers in the 25th Century 10.00 The So: Milton Dollar Main 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 The Ray Mem 11.00 Lean's Spacows 11.30 liter and Paradoury Theaure 12.00 The Twilight Zone 1.20 The Twilight Zone 1.20 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stores 2.30 Mystenes, Magic and Miracles 3.00 Buck

Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Space Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Space Precinct 7.00 The Six Million Dollar Man 8.00 PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal 9.00 Babylon 5 10.00 FILMI: Flutte (1985) 11.45 Sci-Focus Special 12.00 Twin Peaks 1.00am FILMI: Pollergelet II (1986) 2.40 Sci-Focus Spe-cial 3.00 Dark Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

AUTOME & LEISUNE

6.00am Simply Painting 6.30 Instant
Ganders 7.00 Gardian Calendar 7.30 The
Great House Game 8.00 Australia's
Stranges Home Improvements 8.30 The
Crose Gaide 9.00 The Joy of Parting 9.30
Grasspoots 10.00 Instant Gardians 10.30
Antiques Challenge 11.00 Hooked on
Fishing with Paul Young 11.25 The Home
and Lessure House 11.30 Total Fishing with
Mad Hayes 12.00 These Four Walks
12.30pm Doorstep DN 1.00 The Furniture
Guys 1.30 Gammes Steller 2.00 New
Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with
Bob Vila 3.00 This Old House with Sieve
and Norm 3.30 Two's Country
PISCOVERYY

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 The Dicernan 5.00 Secret Fleets 6.00 Outback Adventures 6.30 The Lion's Share Medical Delectives 8.30 Medical Delectives Nagical Defectives also Method Century 9.00 Discover Magazine 10.00 Raging Planet 1.00 The FBI Files 12.00 The FBI Files 1.00am How Did They Build That? 1.30 The Dicemen 2.00 Close

ANIMAL PLANET 12,00am Hollywood Salan 2,00pm Hunters 3,00 Lons 4,00 Lons 5,00 Wild Rescues 8,00 Per Rescue 7,00 Wildle SOS 7,30 Wildle SOS 8,00 Annual Doctor 9,00 Emergency Vets 9,30 Emergency Vets 10,00 Emergency Vets 10,30 Emergency Vets 11,00 Emergency Vets 11,30 Emergency Vets 12,00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Tomado Alley 9,45 Extreme Earth. North Sea Storm 10.00 Killer Storms. Humcane Sea Storm 10.00 Killer Storms. Humbane 11.00 On the Edge Born for the Fight 12.00 Shipmedis. Lifeboot — Friendly Rivals 12.30am Shipmedis. Lifeboot — Let Not HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Cold War -- The Strangelove Factor 5.00 Big Guns 6.00 Di Livingsion, I Presume? 6.55 Photos for the Future 7.00 The Green Bereta CARLTON FOOD

8.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 10.00 Chef for a Day 10.30 Jenny Bristow's Country Cooking 11.00 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.30 Ideal Home Cooks 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm. Food Fectory 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 The Green Cournet 2.00 Retrospoches 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Simply Fish 3.45 More Simply Anlony 4.30-5.00 Mindula's Indian Kitchen 1.001MAC LIVING

Ammai Rescue 7.00 Professor Bubble 7.25
Callou 7.30 Polks Dot Shorts 7.40 Johnson and Friends 7.50 Bantos 7.40 Johnson and Friends 7.50 Bantos 7.40 Johnson and Friends 7.50 Bantos 7.45 Practical Parenting 8.00 Bantey and Friends 8.25 My Zoo 8.30 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 8.00 Special Bables 9.30 Home and Awity 10.00 The Jeny Springer Show 10.50 Meury Powch 11.40 Brooksde 12.10pm Through the Keyhole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiction 1440 Mauny Powich 2.30 Special Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiction 140 Maury Prouch 2.30 Special Bebies 3.00 Living Room 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Home and Away 5.10 Through Ihr Kayficle 5.40 Caril Cook, Won'l Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 9.11 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 LA Lew 9.00 FLUN: Other Women's Children (1983) 11.00 Sodasyl 12.00 Close ZEE TV

5.00am Hasya Tene Char Vasya 5.30 Hit Thi Hi Ha 6.00 Hero Kel Au Aur Kel 6.30 Awaz Nayee Andar Wool 7.00 Faith 7.30 News 8.00 Kembar Dunya 8.30 Tara 2 8.00 Zanjeeren 9.30 Zee Health Show 10.00 Urdu Drame 11.00 Pol Luck 11.30 Parampara 12.00 Tanell Fillik Carling Dorling 3.00pm Bangla TV Nokhaturer Rat 3.30 Public Demand 4.00 Film Charlet 4.00 Pop Time 6.30 Hip Hip Humay 7.00 Gudgudee 7.30 Chemago: 8.00 News 8.30 Chehal Aur Nathal 9.00 Hassatein 10.00 Pelustan News 10.30 X Zone 11.30 Emirates Woold of Onche I 2.00 News Emirates World of Cricket 12,00 | 12,30cm Business 1,00 Barolla TV Parwartan 2,00 Hindi Fil.M; Ancides I



SURFING 45

Women's champion faces formidable tide of opposition

SPORT

CRICKET 48

Kendall gives his bat a winter rest and Hampshire feel benefit



THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

Keegan's shadow side acquit themselves well before Hungary stage second-half rally

England draw on their reserves

FROM OLIVER HOLT POOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN BUDAPEST

IN THEIR search for meaning from the match that no-body wanted, England found five debuts and a penalty in the Nep Stadium last night, but could not prevent a spirit-ed Hungary team from stain-ing Kevin Keegan's nascent international record as a manager with its first blemish.

England seemed to have won the game with a first-half penalty from Alan Shearer after the captain was fouled, but they were subjected to a siege after the interval and Janos Hrutka equalised with a fiercely struck 25-yard free The result dashed Keegan's fond hopes of winning all four of the matches that he has

Vale threat over tackle.....49 Olympic goal..

agreed to oversee as caretaker coach, but it is unlikely to harm morale in the run-up to the European championship qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

This, after all, was an experimental side built on pragmatism and compromise, which gave debuts to Michael Gray. Kevin Phillips, Emile Heskey, Jamie Carragher and Wes Brown. Steve McManaman looked promising, if not outstanding, in his free role and Phillips fluffed one easy chance. Still, Shearer could have won the game in the dy-ing minutes if he had not slipped as he tried to latch on to a cross from Phil Neville.

England had started confidently. If the game was sup-posed to be yet another trial for McManaman, he had started his defence well. Not a touch went awry and his teas-ing dribbles tied the Hungary

detence in knots. McManaman, so often condemned to the periphery of play in England games, was relishing the free role that Keegan had given him.

Shearer, having won the penalty, dispatches it with typical forcefulness to give England their first-half lead against Hungary at the Nep Stadium last night. Photograph: Marc Aspland

trio of Tim Sherwood, Nicky Butt and David Batty. McManaman was at the heart of England's attacking ideas. Against the run of play,

though, Hungary nearly took the lead in the lourteenth minute. There seemed little danger when Istvan Pisont collected a loose hall outside the England area after Phillips had inadvertently headed the Buttressed by the combative ball into his path. But when

Pisont slipped a neat pass into the box, Bela Illes, Hungary's best player, sprung a rather feeble attempt at an offside trap and advanced on David Seaman. He lashed his shot at al aiming for power not placement, but Seaman had stayed on his feet long enough

to push it high over the bar. Hungary might have scored again six minutes later when Brown, who looked the least certain of the inexperienced players in the England side, slipped as he tried to turn away from Attila Korsos. Korsos pounced on the error and as he shaped to shoot, Brown pealed for a penalty, but the referee rightly ruled that the offence had taken place outside the area and the home side wasted the free kick.

Shearer interrupted their attacking move, in the 22nd minute, to set McManaman racing down the right and, when he lost possession. Shearer was first to the loose ball. As he burst into the area he was brought down by Gabor Halmai and the referee awarded a penalty. The Hungarians protested vigorously, but Shearer dispatched his kick emphatically. It was his 23rd international goal in 49

Five minutes after that, Shearer turned provider, slipping a clever pass into the path of Phillips, who had timed his run into the box beautifully. With only the goalmost clinical finisher in the Nationwide League, should. have scored, but he seemed to snatch at his shot and hit it close enough to Gabor Kiraly to allow him to save with his

England were the dominant side now and Shearer might have added a second goal after half an hour. He forced his way past Janos Matyus and held him off just long enough to strike a low, right-foot shot that seemed to have evaded the goalkeeper, but lodged underneath his body as he dived. Sherwood spurned another

chance before half-time, hooking his shot high over the bai from eight yards after a long throw from Neville had been flicked on at the near post. Reprieved, Hungary were

revitalised when they came out for the second half. Five minutes after the interval, Vilmos Sebok, their Bristol City defender, made his first notable contribution, hitting a ball over the top of the England defence. Tibor Dombi, who had

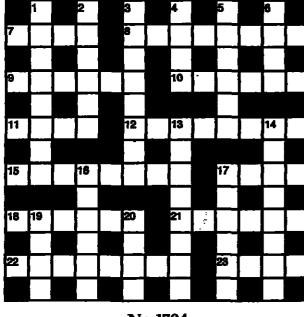
sional problem down the England left with his pace, nearly surprised Seaman by hitting it first time on the volley as it dropped over his shoulder.

Seaman was equal to that his right to smother his shot, and a minute later he denied him again, this time leaping to tip his curling right-foot shot from the edge of the area over the crossbar.

Still Hungary pressed for-ward and it took a fine saving tackle from Martin Keown to deny illes as he surged into the box after a pass from Dombi. Just when it seemed that England were safe, though,

minute, right-foot free kick over the England wall and past Seaman's half-hearted leap into the roof of the net. — G Korsos (Gyori ETC; Sub. N Toth, Ujoest, 65min), J Hrutton (FC Kaserstautern), V Sebok (Bristol City), J Matyus (Farencyaros) — G Helmal (MTK Hungara), I Plasont (Entracht Frankluf, sub J Somony), Gyori ETC, 45), P Dendel (Herta RSC). — T Dendel (DVSC Epona). B files (MTK Hungara), A Korsos (Ujoes).
ENGLARD (4:3-1-2); D Seamen (Arsena).
W Brown Mucroseter United sub. M

— W Brown (Manchester United; sub. M Gray, Sunderland, 73), M Koown (A-sena), R Ferdinand (West Ham United: sub. J Carragher, Liverpool, 62), P Neville (Manchester United) — T Sherwood (Totarham Hotspun), D Butty (Leeds United), N Butt (Manchester United) — S McManaman (Liverpool; sub: J Redinapp, Liverpool, 65) — K Phillips (Sunderland; sub: E Healtey, Leicester Chy, 63). A Shearer (Newcastle United)



No 1704

ACROSS 7 Override ves-vote (4)

8 - Swinburne; - Moncrieff (Wilde) (8) 9 With unusual talent (6) 10 Resounds (6) 11 Bad-luck bringer (4)

12 Immature (behaviour) (8) 15 Fearless (8) 17 Throw violently (4) 18 Pursued; engraved (6) 21 Speculative ploy (6) 22 Realisation (of plan) (8) 23 Advance (2,2); fool, (US) thug 20 Platform for eg high table (4)

4 Frightening monster (4) 5 Bee, fly, lady, monkey flower 6 Folk wisdom (4) 13 Poor (8) 14 One who pulls through (8) 16 Biggest-land-area country (6) 17 Public respect (paid) (6) 19 Damage (4)

3 Disadvantage (8)

1 Act undermining state (8) 2 Grey matter (of brain) (6)

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1703 ACROSS: I Spiked 5 Bubble 8 Gong 9 Velocity 10 Target 12 Awry 15 Madison Avenue 16 Fens 17 Deride 19 Brandish 21 Weep 22 Aplomb 23 Parade DOWN: 2 Propagate 3 Keg 4 Devotion 5 Bell 6 Buccaneer 7 Lit 11 Glissando 13 Roundhead 14 Hardship 18 Limb 20 Rip 21 War

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running in bid to prove point Matt Dickinson watches the ans to contain. Madrid-bound player attempt

McManaman makes all the

evin Keegan had talked of Steve Mc-Manaman laying Manaman laying some ghosts to rest while many others had predicted that his performance would come back to haunt him. In the end, the sides in the great McManaman debate had to settle for a draw last night, just as England did in the Nep

There have been occasions this season when Real Madrid must have felt like turning a blind eye to Liverpool games rather than watch McManaman's laboured efforts in a poor side. Injuries and falling confidence had taken their toll. His club had appeared to out him in isolation.

With the three drones of Butt, Batty and Sherwood to perform the mundane work last night, McManaman could buzz around like the queen bee. There were times when he appeared to be dropping too deep to be really dangerous, but he could not be faulted for effort. It was not hard to see why he was once a champion cross-country runner in his schooldays.

The great dilemma over what to do with McManaman is seen as the player's fault as well as that of successive England coaches, but it goes far deeper than that. It is English football's problem that there are so few players who can penetrate the best defences with quick-footed runs from midfield. Paul Gascoigne was the last, which makes his passing as an international footballer all the more

In the absence of alternatives - Lee Hendrie is too young, Paul Merson too troubled — Keegan is hoping that

to show his real credentials mad, I get even". It was not the sort of thing that boosts a

McManaman can be the player who unlocks defences at critical moments, that he can be England's Zidane, Baggio or Rivaldo. It is a mighty task for the ZI-year-old and one which he needs time to learn. It is unlikely, though, that he will be allowed that luxury.

He did, at least, play with a confidence that had been nonexistent during Glenn Hod-dle's reign. When McMana-man missed the Tournoi because of injury, the former England coach constructively

unease between player and coach persisted until Hoddle's departure. That disgruntlement with the international scene has

now disappeared and Mo-Manaman, until he was ordered into a more orthodox right-wing role in the second half, worked hard to prompt England moves. His inability to whip dangerous crosses in the mode of David Beckham remains a weakness, but he



Shearer is sent tumbling in the penalty area in the incident that allowed England to take the lead

proved hard for the Hungari-

It was a willingness to experiment that was spread throughout the England team and which can almost certainly be attributed to the caretaker coach. The objections to this match were many and justified, but Keegan could rally the nation behind a game of bowls and it certainly did not feel like a wasted evening in the Nep Stadium.

That could partly be attributed to the locals who retain a slightly bizarre respect for English football, even though the Mighty Magyars were prov-ing too strong for England as far back as 1953 with that 6-3 victory at Wembley. They turned up in huge numbers last night and were no more passive than their team.

But the interest in the game was also fuelled by the attitude of the England players, who appeared to treat this match as though it might be their last. In some cases, that may be the case. Kevin Phillips will return to Sunderland and to the back of a queue of forwards that includes Owen, Fowler and Cole among others.

He can do so, though, happy that he enjoyed the occasion, attempting a few optimistic long-range drives and coming close to a goal when he was put through by Shearer midway through the first half. He should have done better than shoot low and hard at the goalkeeper's legs. If he played without obvious nerves, even though he had been plucked from Baldock Town and a B&O forklift truck only four years ago, it was perhaps because he found himself being marked by a man from Bristol City.



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